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When superhumanity needs a detective agency, they call upon Madrox the Multiple Man and his mutant team of investigators...

Having relocated from Detroit back to New York City to take advantage of all the potential business in the super hero community, the current roll call-besides Madrox -include the super strong Guido, the extra-dimensional warrior Shatterstar, former ground shaker Rictor, the evolutionary powered Darwin, and the luck-oriented Longshot. Noticeably absent are the distaff members, Monet and Siryn, but that's going to be changing shortly...

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THERE'S ALWAYS MORE DIRT IN THE PILE THAN GOES BACK INTO THE GROUND.
EVER NOTICE THAT?
NO.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
NEVER HAVING NOTICED IT, I HAVEN'T REALLY GIVEN IT ANY THOUGHT.
FAIR ENOUGH.
A-113
Y'KNOW... GOTTA SAY... THIS IS WAY MORE WORK THAN I'D'VE THOUGHT YOU'D GO TO.
BURYING THE EVIDENCE, I MEAN.

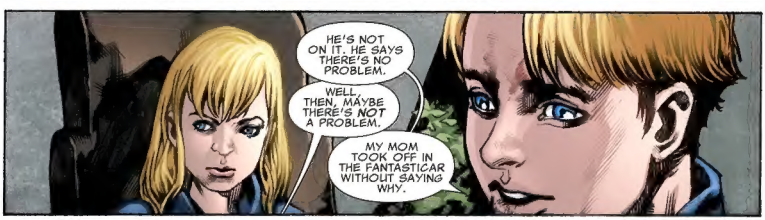
WOULD'VE THOUGHT A GUY LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE, I DUNNO...
...SOME KINDA ZAPPER OR SOMETHING THAT JUST MAKES STUFF GO AWAY.
SUCH AS THIS?
HEH. YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY--
NYAARRRRHH!!!!

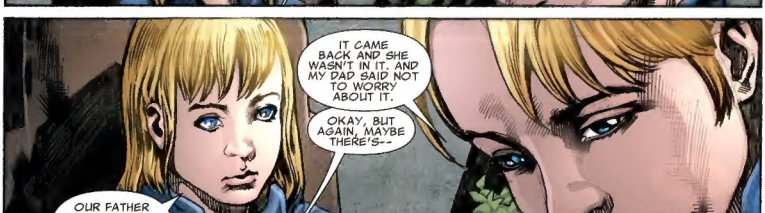
YES.
EVERYONE CLAIMS I'M HILARIOUS.
"I'M SORRY? WHAT DID YOU SAY?"
"I SAID--"

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN HAS
VANISHED!

WOW. I'M WRITING THAT DOWN.
WRITING WHAT--?
WHAT HE JUST SAID. IT'S A GREAT TITLE FOR, I DUNNO, SOMETHING. I LOVE THE IRONY.
IT'S NOT IRONY.
IRONY ENTAILS UNINTENDED HUMOR ON THE SPEAKER'S PART BECAUSE HE'S OBLIVIOUS TO THE SUBTEXT.
THAT ISN'T PRESENT HERE. IT WAS, AT MOST, WHIMSICAL.
IT'S A COMMON MISTAKE, IF THAT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER.
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
VALERIA RICHARDS.
LET ME GUESS: YOUR FATHER'S REED RICHARDS.
WOW. YOU SHOULD BE A DETECTIVE.
HERCULE POIROT WOULD HAVE NOTHING ON YOU.
VAL...
WE'RE LIKE THE GUY FROM "PINK PANTHER"!?
SEE, NOW, THAT'S IRONY.
DARWIN, DON'T HELP, OKAY?

LOOK, FRANKLIN... VALERIA...
YOUR DAD IS, LIKE, THE SMARTEST GUY ON THE PLANET.
NOT "LIKE." IS.
IF YOUR MOM HAS GONE MISSING, THEN I HAVE TO THINK HE'S ON IT. I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE WHAT I'M GOING TO BRING TO THE PARTY.

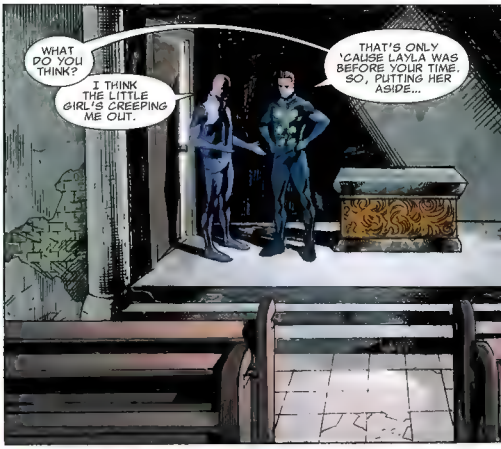

HE'S NOT ON IT. HE SAYS THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
WELL, THEN, MAYBE THERE'S NOT A PROBLEM.
MY MOM TOOK OFF IN THE FANTASTICAR WITHOUT SAYING WHY.


IT CAME BACK AND SHE WASN'T IN IT. AND MY DAD SAID NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY, BUT AGAIN, MAYBE THERE'S--

OUR FATHER WAS DISPLAYING NUMEROUS TICS AND FACIAL CUES THAT INDICATED A LACK OF CANDOR.
PLUS I SECRETLY USED THE BUILDING'S SENSORS TO MONITOR HIS PULSE WHEN HE SAID EVERYTHING WAS FINE AND NOTED AN ELEVEN PERCENT SPIKE.
HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR ABOUT THIS?

UNCLE JOHNNY'S OUT OF TOWN. UNCLE BEN SAID IT WAS "GROWN-UP STUFF" AND THAT I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
INCREDIBLE. THE MAN CAN'T COMPLETE A SUDOKU TO SAVE HIS LIFE, AND HE'S TELLING ME THERE'S SOMETHING I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

OKAY, KIDS, SIT TIGHT. I WANT TO CONFER WITH MY ASSOCIATE.
SURE.
AS YOU WISH.


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK THE LITTLE GIRL'S CREEPING ME OUT.
THAT'S ONLY 'CAUSE LAYLA WAS BEFORE YOUR TIME. SO, PUTTING HER ASIDE...

ACTUALLY, FOR ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT HER.
MEANING--?
MEANING HOWEVER SMART HER DAD IS, SHE OBVIOUSLY AIN'T NO SLOUCH HERSELF. WHICH TELLS ME THAT IF SHE SAYS THERE'S SMOKE...

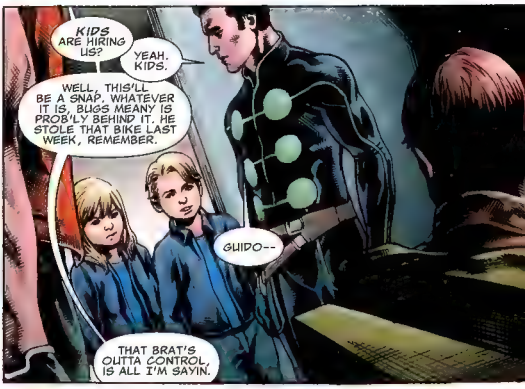
...THERE'S FIRE? YUP. THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING, TOO.

THINK THEY'RE GOING TO HELP?
YES. I CREEP OUT DARWIN, BUT THEY FEEL OUR CONCERNS MIGHT BE VALID.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I USED MY PERIPHERAL VISION TO LIP-READ THEM

OKAY, NOW YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT.

ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?!
SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I AM.
ALTHOUGH HIS SWORDSMANSHIP IS PATHETIC. I COULD DISEMBOWEL HIM IN FIVE SECONDS.
YOU GET THAT HE'S AN ACTOR, RIGHT?
NO EXCUSE. BUT HE DELIVERS THE DIALOGUE NICELY.
WHATTAYA WATCHIN'?
YEAH?
"GLADIATOR."
TELL ME, SHATTERSTAR: DO YOU LIKE... GLADIATOR MOVIES?
APPARENTLY SO.
FIGURES.
NOT FUNNY, GUIDO! NOT FUNNY!
I JUST MISSED SOMETHING HERE, DIDN'T I.
OKAY, GUYS! SADDLE UP! WE'VE GOT A CASE!
'BOUT TIME.

HUH?


KIDS ARE HIRING US?
YEAH. KIDS.
WELL, THIS'LL BE A SNAP. WHATEVER IT IS, BUGS MEANY IS PROB'LY BEHIND IT. HE STOLE THAT BIKE LAST WEEK, REMEMBER.
GUIDO--
THAT BRAT'S OUTTA CONTROL. IS ALL I'M SAYIN.

OUR MOM, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN, HAS VANISHED.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S SOMETHING WORTH JOKING ABOUT?
WELL? DO YOU?
UH...NO. SORRY.
GOOD.

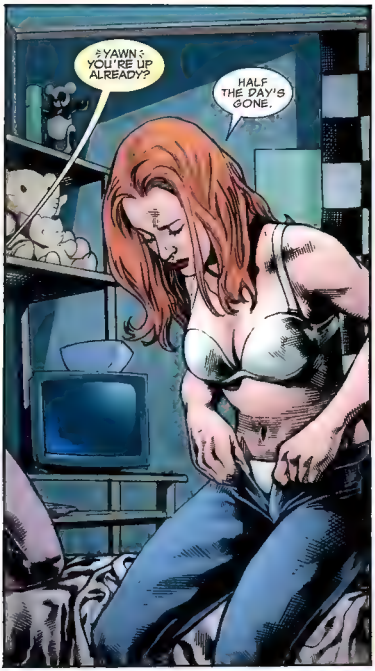
ALTHOUGH, Y'KNOW, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN VANISHING IS KIND OF IRON--

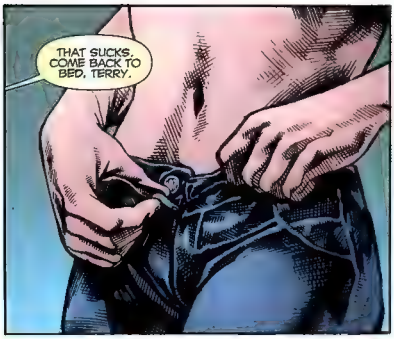
I SWEAR TO GOD, GUIDO, DON'T GO THERE.

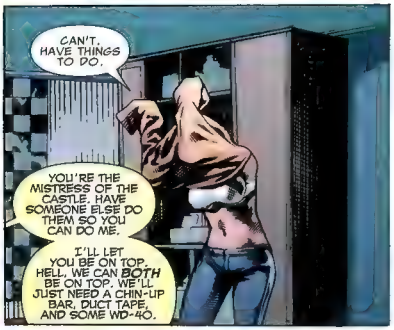
BY THE WAY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO PAY YOU--
CAN YOUR SISTER GIVE ME STOCK TIPS?
ABSOLUTELY.
THEN LET'S FIND YOUR MOM.

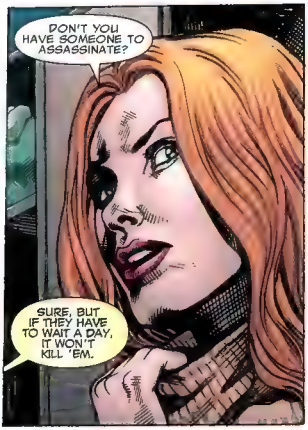
HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE BACK IN NEW YORK.
THAT WE'RE OPERATING OUT OF AN ABANDONED FUNERAL HOME I MANAGED TO BUY ON THE CHEAP.
WHEN I TOLD THE CREW GUIDO AND I WERE GOING TO RESTART X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS IN NEW YORK SO THAT TERRY COULD HAVE DETROIT ALL TO HERSELF...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MOST OF THEM WOULD SHOW UP ON MY DOORSTEP A MONTH LATER BECAUSE TERRY DECIDED TO SHUT DOWN THE OFFICE.
HEY... MADROX...IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES THE GIRL REMIND YOU OF LAY--?
IT'S NOT JUST YOU.
SOPHIE
Sydney
Kyla
CHLOE
DAY WAS HERE

SO YOU FLEW HERE USING THOSE JACKETS?
UH-HUH.
I GOTTA GET ME ONE OF THOSE.
YOU KIDS SHOULD RIDE BACK WITH US.
IN A HEARSE?
CAME WITH THE BUILDING. NO WORRIES. WE HAD ADDITIONAL SEATS PUT IN.
YOU DON'T WANT US TO GO ON AHEAD? LET DAD KNOW YOU'RE COMING?
DID YOU TELL HIM YOU WERE HIRING US?
NO.
THEN LET'S KEEP IT ON THE DOWN-LOW FOR NOW.
IS THIS ENDEAVOR GOING TO INVOLVE A FIGHT? I COULD USE ONE. OTHERWISE THE MUSCLE MEMORY OF MY KILLING STROKE COULD ATROPHY.
Y'ASK ME, MADROX IS JUST HUMORING THESE KIDS. NOTHING'LL COME OF IT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE THING MIGHT WOMP ON US JUST ON PRINCIPLE.
WE CAN ONLY HOPE.


♀YAWN♀ YOU'RE UP ALREADY?
HALF THE DAY'S GONE.


THAT SUCKS. COME BACK TO BED, TERRY.


CAN'T. HAVE THINGS TO DO.
YOU'RE THE MISTRESS OF THE CASTLE. HAVE SOMEONE ELSE DO THEM SO YOU CAN DO ME.
I'LL LET YOU BE ON TOP. HELL, WE CAN BOTH BE ON TOP. WE'LL JUST NEED A CHIN-UP BAR, DUCT TAPE, AND SOME WD-40.


DON'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO ASSASSINATE?
SURE, BUT IF THEY HAVE TO WAIT A DAY, IT WON'T KILL 'EM.

SERIOUSLY... THIS WAS GREAT. BUT WE'RE DONE NOW. OKAY?
OKAY... SURE. YOUR LOSS, BABY. I'M OUTTA HERE.
♀CHOKE♀ I MISS HER ALREADY...

EVERY TIME THE PHONE RINGS, I HOPE IT'S THERESA. EVERY TIME THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR, I THINK MAYBE IT'S HER.
I KNOW WE'LL NEVER BE A COUPLE AGAIN. THAT SHIP HAS SAILED ON SEVERAL LEVELS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT MY MIND IS STILL SCRAMBLED OVER LAYLA.
BUT THE WAY WE LEFT IT AFTER I SHOWED UP BACK IN DETROIT... DROPPED BACK INTO MY OWN TIME COURTESY OF DOOM'S TIME MACHINE...
WHEN WE PARTED, SHE BROKE MY FINGER, SWORE THE NEXT TIME IT WOULD BE MY NECK...AND THERE I WAS, RIGHT BACK IN FRONT OF HER.
SHE STOOD THERE AND STARED AT ME... JUST STARED...
...AND THEN SHE FLEW AWAY

EVERYBODY ELSE WAS FILLED WITH QUESTIONS:
WHERE HAD I BEEN?
HOW DID I COME BACK?
DID I KNOW ABOUT RICTOR AND SHATTERSTAR?

THAT LAST ONE, I DON'T GET. DID ANYONE NOT KNOW ABOUT RICTOR AND SHATTERSTAR?
ANYWAY...LOTS OF QUESTIONS, NO EASY ANSWERS.

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CAME TO QUESTIONS ABOUT LAYLA.

SHE'S THERE...SHE'S GONE... WE'RE BACK TOGETHER, AND SHE'S AN ADULT. AND THEN SHE'S GONE AGAIN.
SHE'S LIKE AN EMOTIONAL WASHING MACHINE AND I'M CAUGHT IN HER SPIN CYCLE

I KNOW SHE'LL WANDER BACK INTO MY LIFE AGAIN, AND PART OF ME CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT...

...AND PART OF ME IS TERRIFIED OF THE PROSPECT.

FRANKLIN... VALERIA...
WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING, DRAGGING MR. MADROX AND HIS ASSOCIATES INTO A PERSONAL FAMILY MATTER?
diet Coke

THEY WEREN'T DRAGGED. THEY WERE RETAINED.
LOOK, REED, THE KIDS WERE CLEARLY UPSET, SO I THOUGHT WE COULD...
NO OFFENSE, JAMIE, BUT YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER AREN'T OF ALL THAT MUCH INTEREST TO ME.

CHILDREN: UPSTAIRS. WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
THESE KIDS ARE UPSET, REED. THEY'RE SCARED. GROUNDIN' THEM AIN'T 'ZACTLY—

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN, MR... "STRONG GUY," IS IT?
"GUIDO" IS FINE, AND NO, NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
THEN KINDLY LEAVE THE PARENTING TO ME. I'LL REIMBURSE YOU FOR YOUR TIME. GOOD DAY.

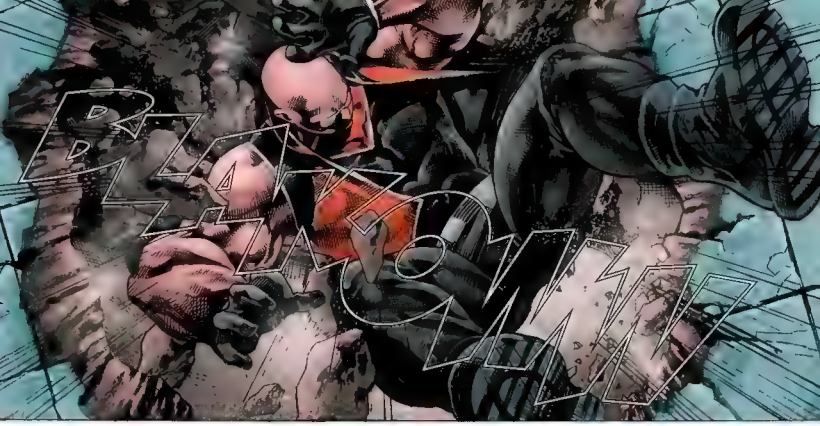
THIS IS BRUSQUE, EVEN FOR REED. SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE.
OR MAYBE IT IS JUST A FAMILY THING.
THEN AGAIN, MOST DETECTIVE WORK INVOLVES DIVORCES AND IT DOESN'T GET MORE "FAMILY THING" THAN THAT. SO--
HOLD ON! YA CAN'T JUST--
YEAH--
HE CAN.
LEGGO MY ARM, GRIMM.
SURE. SOON AS YOU PROMISE TO PACK UP YER TWO-BIT POSSE AND VAMOOSE BEFORE THINGS GET UGLY.
'CAUSE YER THE EXPERT ON "UGLY"!? IZZAT IT?
OH, THIS IS NOT GOING TO END WELL.

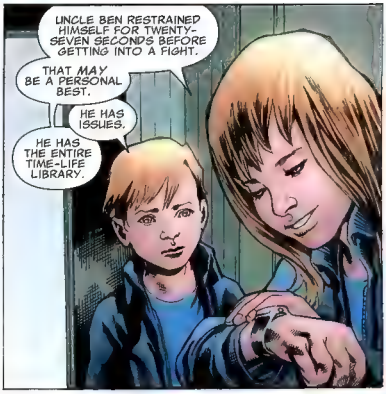
HELLO?
HELLO! EVIL SUPER VILLAIN HERE TO DESTROY, YOU KNOW... WHATEVER!
FORTUNATELY I'M OVERWHELMED BY YOUR TOTAL LACK OF INTERNAL DEFENSES! WHICH IS WHY I'M WALKING AROUND, COMPLETELY UNDETERRED!
UNBELIEVABLE. I COULD BE LINING THE AIR CONDITIONING WITH ANTHRAX AND THEY'D NEVER...
WAIT. WHY IS THAT DRAWER OPEN?
IS THERE SOMEONE---?
OH MY GOD.

LONGSHOT...

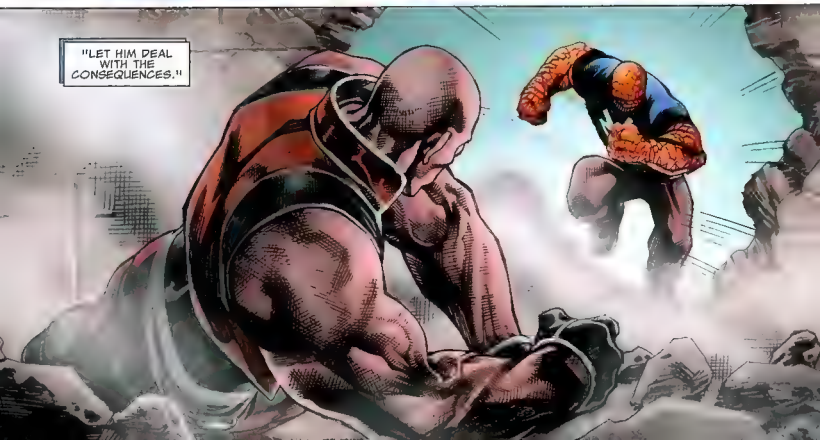
LONGSHOT!
ARHHHH!
YIKE!!!
HEY!
AAAHHHH!!!!
OH NO.
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?

Fine, Monet. I'm... fine.
I just... can't *feel* anything...from the neck up...
Which is... probably good... all things considered...
COULD EVERYONE PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN?
I'M A LITTLE HUNG OVER.
HUNG OVER?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
UNNHH!!!
NO, BUT I'M STARTING TO *WISH* I WAS.
THIS MUST HAVE BEEN GUIDO'S IDEA OF A PRACTICAL JOKE. WE WENT OUT DRINKING LAST NIGHT AND, WELL...
A PRACTICAL JOKE. HILARIOUS.
WHY WAS NOBODY AT THE FRONT DESK?
THIS WAS MY WEEK FOR BEING THE RECEPTIONIST, AND I WAS IN THE BATHROOM. SUE ME.
WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE, MONET? I THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF WITH SIRYN.
I WAS, I NEED TO TALK TO *MADROX*. WHERE IS HE?
BAXTER BUILDING ON A JOB.
GREAT. THEY'RE PROBABLY IN A POINTLESS FIGHT RIGHT NOW.
NAH, I'M SURE EVERYTHING'S FINE.


BLAM
BLAM


UNCLE BEN RESTRAINED HIMSELF FOR TWENTY-SEVEN SECONDS BEFORE GETTING INTO A FIGHT.
THAT MAY BE A PERSONAL BEST.
HE HAS ISSUES.
HE HAS THE ENTIRE TIME-LIFE LIBRARY.

FEEL FREE TO GO ON AHEAD OF ME!
I'M IN NO HURRY, MADROX.
YOUR MAN PROVOKED THIS BRAWL...


"LET HIM DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES."

C'MON, STRONG GUY...
LESSEE WHAT'CHA G--
THAP!
HUNH!
NOT BAD, NOT--
WHAM

BLAM CRAWW

LEMME GUESS:
METS FAN. RIGHT?
'CAUSE THAT'D Y'KNOW, EXPLAIN THE HOSTILITY.
AT LEAST WE CAME BACK AGAINST BOSTON IN '86. NOT LIKE YOU GUYS CHOKING FOUR YEARS AGO--
OOOOFFF!

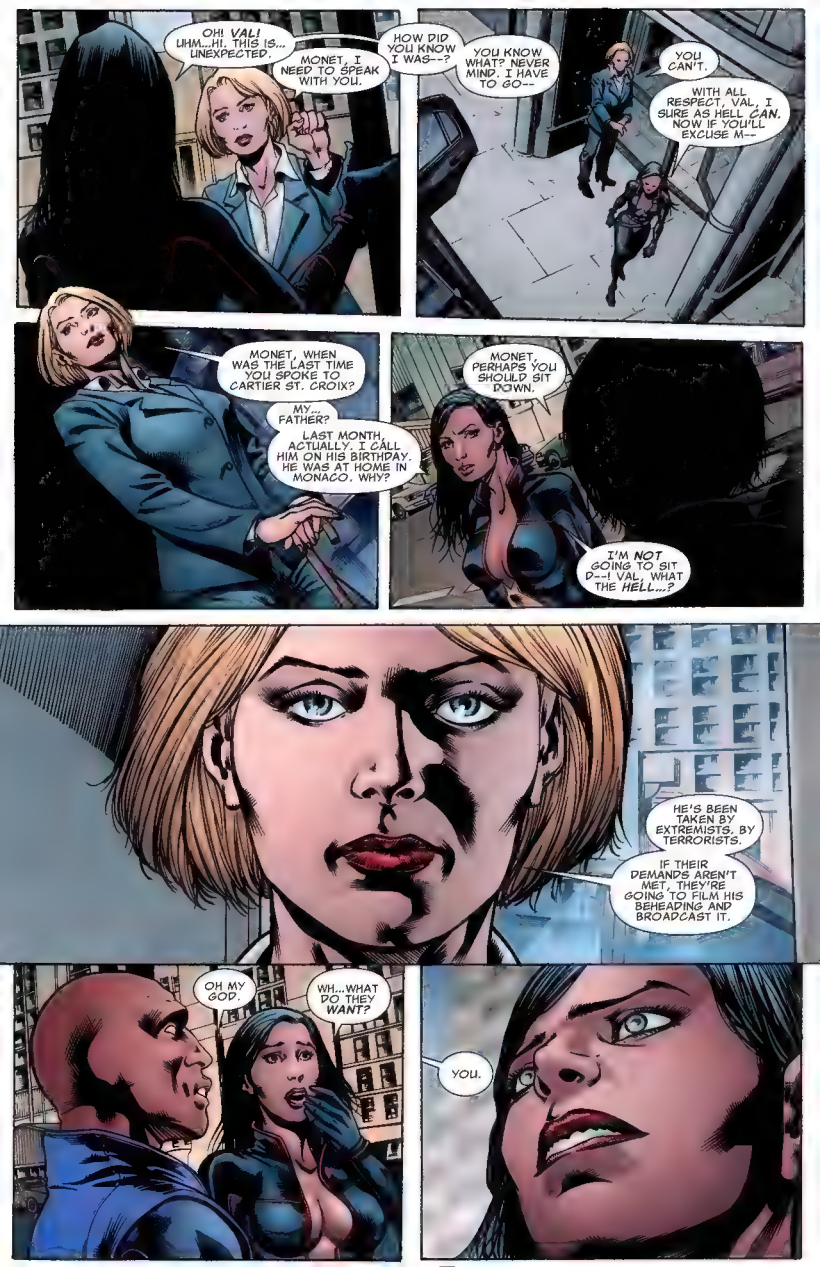
KLAAAVG
I had 'im...on the ropes...
YES, I KNOW. I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KEEP SHOWING OFF.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
SHATTERSTAR.
SERIOUSLY?
WHAT, ARE THEY COMIN' UP WITH NAMES BY JUST SLAPPIN' WORDS TOGETHER NOW? WHY NOT SASSYSPAM? OR DIZZYPUCK? OR HELMETHAIR--? OKAY, THAT ONE WORKS, BUT STILL...
YOU'D THINK UNCLE BEN WOULD LET THE '04 ALCS GO SINCE THE YANKEES WON THE SERIES THIS YEAR, BUT NOOOO...
REED, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, LET ME GET IN THERE AND--
GET YOUR HEAD HANDED TO YOU? I DON'T THINK SO.
STOP STRUGGLING, MADROX. IT ISN'T DOING YOU ANY GOOD.
WELL...IT'S DOING ONE GOOD THING.
IT'S HELPING TO KEEP REED DISTRACTED...

DON'T--
--BRING LIP--
--THE '04 RED SOX!!!
It's lucky... the Yankees didn't start 2009...going zero for eight against the Sox--
Oh wait...they did.
YEAH, OKAY... LIGHTS OUT, BIG GUY--

...SO THAT HE DOESN'T NOTICE THAT RICTOR IS M.I.A.
THIS WAY.
ARE YOU SURE?
I HAVE ALL THE MEMORIES OF WHEN I WAS A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT, AND S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD A FULL BLUEPRINT OF THIS PLACE. I'M POSITIVE.
I'M ALMOST POSITIVE.
I'M ABSOLUTELY PRETTY SURE THAT IT'S...
NEVER MIND. VALERIA GAVE ME DIRECTIONS.
IT'S UP HERE, THIS WAY.
IT GOT AWFULLY QUIET BACK THERE.
YOU THINK IT'S OVER?
NO.
THEN WHAT--?
I THINK IT'S THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

AND WE'RE SURE SHE'S HERE?
YES, MA'AM. OUR INTEL IS SOLID.
SHE'S DEFINITELY IN THERE.
GOOD.
WELL... NOT GOOD, ACTUALLY.
CONSIDERING ALL THE LOUSY NEWS I'VE HAD TO DELIVER IN MY LIFE...
...IT'S IMPRESSIVE HOW MUCH I'M DREADING THIS CONVERSATION.

WHY NOT WAIT HERE FOR HIM--?
DARWIN, YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT.
WAITING AROUND FOR PEOPLE TO SHOW UP ISN'T EXACTLY MY STYLE.
YOU WANT HIM TO GO TO IRELAND AND SQUARE THINGS WITH THERESA.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
LUCKY GUESS.
IS SHE GOING TO WANT TO SEE HIM?
PROBABLY NOT.
BUT... SHE'LL TALK TO HIM?
PROBABLY NOT.
BUT...IT'LL HELP IN SOME WAY?
PROBABLY NOT.
THEN WHY--?
BECAUSE I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
BECAUSE I WENT WITH HER TO CASSIDY KEEP, HER ANCESTRAL HOME, TO HELP HER RECAPTURE HER SOUL.
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK. EVERY DAY SHE GOT EMPTIER AND EMPTIER. EVERY DAY...
...SHE WAS A LITTLE LESS TERRY.
AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS.
OCCASIONALLY SAVING SOMEONE IS MORE INVOLVED THAN JUST RESCUING THEM FROM BAD GUYS.


OH! VAL! UHM...HI. THIS IS... UNEXPECTED.
MONET, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS--?
YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND. I HAVE TO GO--
YOU CAN'T.
WITH ALL RESPECT, VAL, I SURE AS HELL CAN. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE M--
MONET, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SPOKE TO CARTIER ST. CROIX?
MY... FATHER?
LAST MONTH, ACTUALLY. I CALL HIM ON HIS BIRTHDAY. HE WAS AT HOME IN MONACO. WHY?
MONET, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN.
I'M NOT GOING TO SIT D--! VAL, WHAT THE HELL...?
HE'S BEEN TAKEN BY EXTREMISTS. BY TERRORISTS.
IF THEIR DEMANDS AREN'T MET, THEY'RE GOING TO FILM HIS BEHEADING AND BROADCAST IT.
OH MY GOD.
WH...WHAT DO THEY WANT?
YOU.

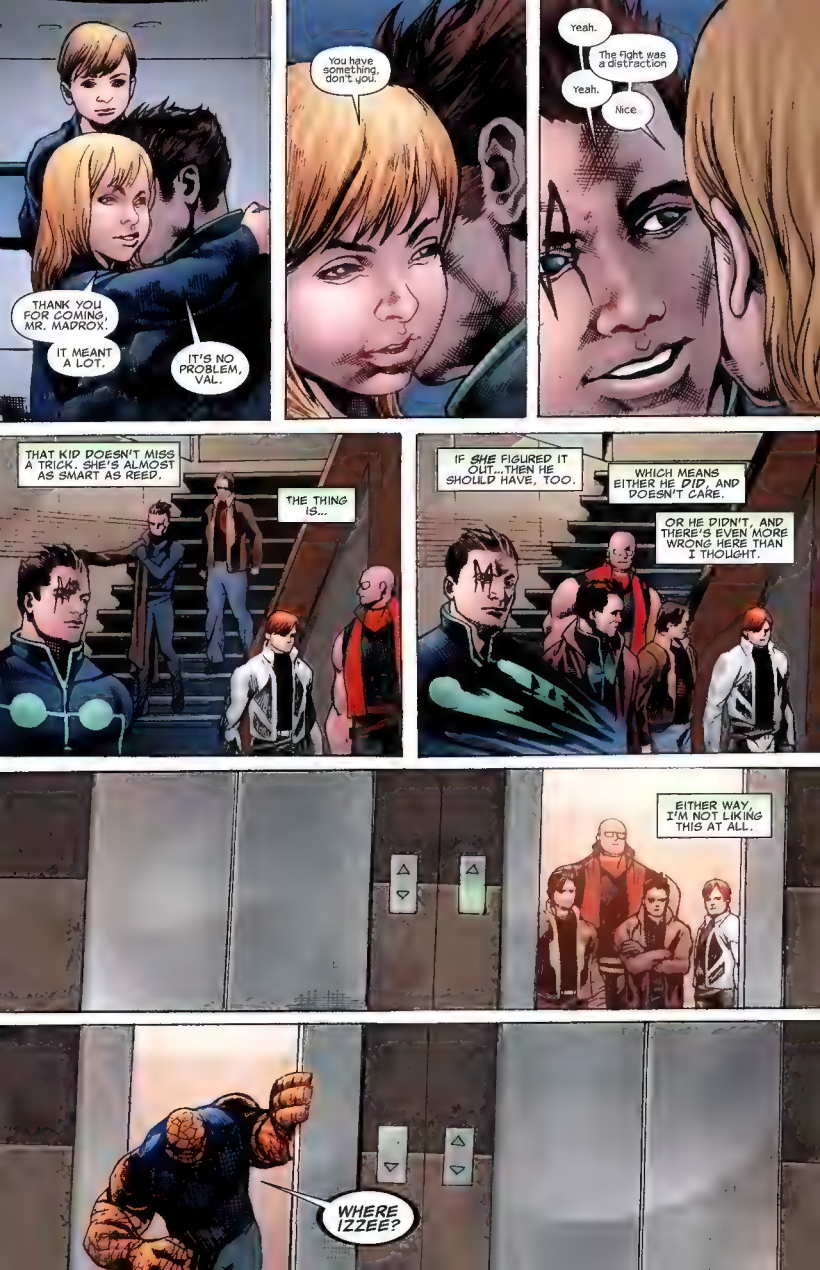
SO YA DECIDED NOT T'HANG BACK ANYMORE, DID'JA?
I WASN'T HANGING BACK.
I WAS STUDYING YOUR TECHNIQUE... AT LEAST, WHAT THERE IS OF IT.
BASIC BRAWLER. LEAD WITH YOUR FISTS, DEPEND ON ROUNDHOUSES AND UPPERCUTS AND YOUR STRENGTH.
YEAH, AND I'M A HELLUVA DANCER, TOO. THAT'S WHY THE LADIES LOVE ME.
OH YES. THE LADIES. SO--
HOW'S YOUR HONEYMOON GOING?
OHHHH. DID I HIT A SORE SPOT?
THAT AIN'T THE ONLY THING THAT'S GONNA GET HIT!

SEE, NOW YOU'RE JUST GETTING SLOPPY.
YOUR STRENGTH DOESN'T MEAN A DAMNED THING IF YOU KEEP MISSING...
...AND MY STRENGTH MEANS EVERYTHING, BECAUSE I NEVER MISS.
AND BY THE WAY--
WAAAM

--DON'T EVER--
WAAAM
--SCREW--
WAAAM
--WITH MY TEAMMATES--
BLAKAAAM
--AGAIN!!!

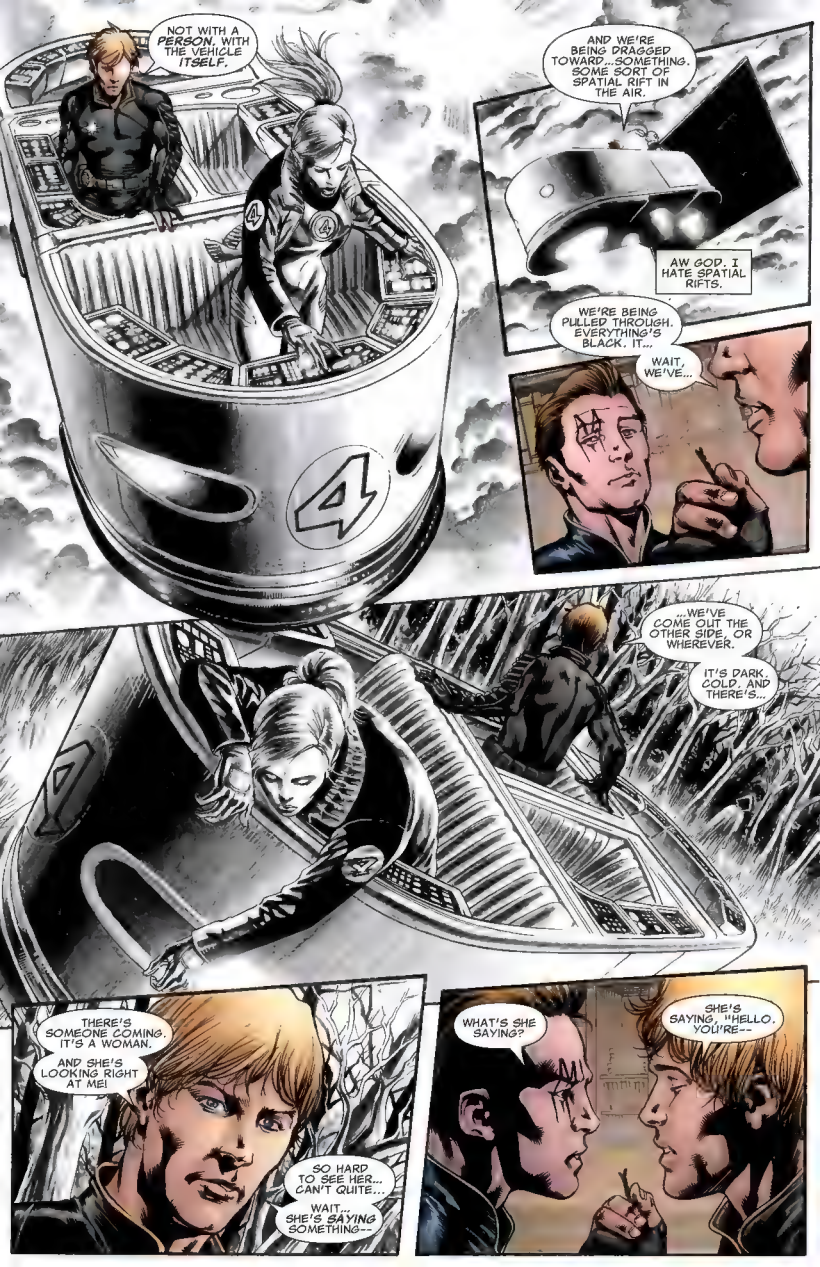
ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?!
YEAH, OKAY, I'M SHOVIN' THAT GUY'S HEAD SO FAR UP HIS BACKSIDE HE'LL BE ABLE TO WEAR HIS COLON FOR AN EASTER BONNET.

JAMIE, I THINK WE SHOULD GO.
YEAH?
DEFINITELY.
OKAY. REED... WHAT HE SAID. IT'S ABOUT TIME WE LEFT.
PAST TIME, REALLY. I THINK THE BEST THING YOU COULD BE WHEN BEN GETS BACK IS ELSEWHERE.
I'M FINE. I'M FINE.
DID HE HURT YOU IN ANY--?
I SAID I'M FINE! OKAY?
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
YES, BUT BEING ON A TEAM MEANS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO
YEAH, WHATEVER.
WE'LL LET OURSELVES OUT, REED. AND KIDS...I THINK YOUR DAD IS RIGHT. THIS IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD STAY OUT OF. IT'S ALL GOING TO BE FINE.

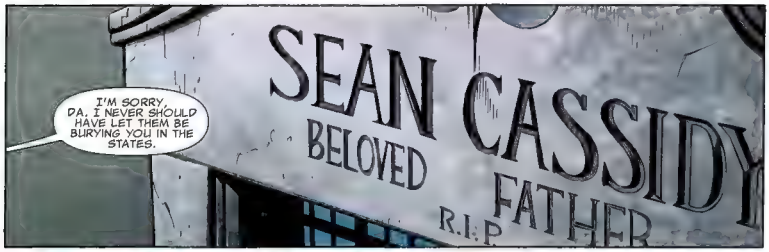

THANK YOU FOR COMING, MR. MADROX.
IT MEANT A LOT.
IT'S NO PROBLEM, VAL.
You have something, don't you.
Yeah.
The fight was a distraction
Yeah.
Nice.
THAT KID DOESN'T MISS A TRICK. SHE'S ALMOST AS SMART AS REED.
THE THING IS...
IF SHE FIGURED IT OUT...THEN HE SHOULD HAVE, TOO.
WHICH MEANS EITHER HE DID, AND DOESN'T CARE.
OR HE DIDN'T, AND THERE'S EVEN MORE WRONG HERE THAN I THOUGHT.
EITHER WAY, I'M NOT LIKING THIS AT ALL.
WHERE IZZEE?

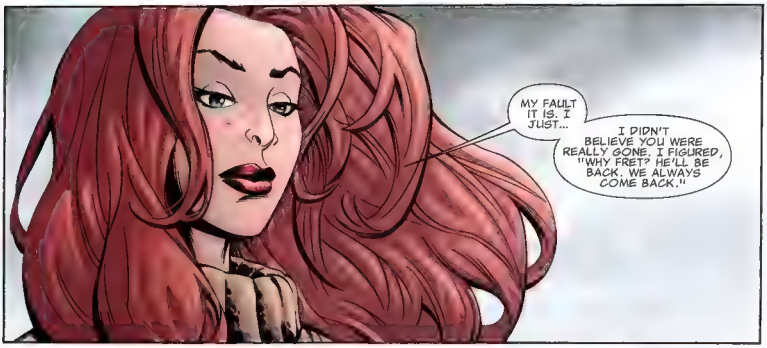
TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, MONET.
OH YES IT IS. THEY WANT ME? FINE. THEY GET ME.
AND ONCE THEY HAVE ME, I'LL STRANGLE THEM WITH THEIR OWN SPINES.
IF YOU EXTRACT THEIR SPINES, WON'T THEY ALREADY BE DEAD? SO WHY WOULD YOU NEED TO--
--AND I REALIZE NOW THAT YOU WERE SPEAKING IN HYPERBOLE, AND PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ME TO SHUT UP.
GOOD.
MONET?
WOW. UH...HI. IS--?
TERRY'S NOT WITH ME, NO.
AND...VAL...? ARE YOU TWO TOGETHER? NOT... IN THE ROMANTIC SENSE, I MEAN, BUT--
MADROX, FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, LISTEN.
SHE LAYS IT ALL OUT FOR ME. ABOUT HOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS CONTACTED, AND THEY KICKED IT OVER TO THE O*N*E BECAUSE A MUTANT'S INVOLVED.
ABOUT HOW DETAILS ARE SKETCHY AND ARE STILL COMING IN.
SHE SAYS SHE HAS A SECURITY BRIEFING IN AN HOUR BUT WILL BE BACK TO GIVE US THE FULL UPDATE. AND ONCE VAL LEAVES...
I WOULD... REALLY APPRECIATE IT...
IF YOU COULD ALL GIVE ME SOME SPACE RIGHT NOW.
JUST... GO.

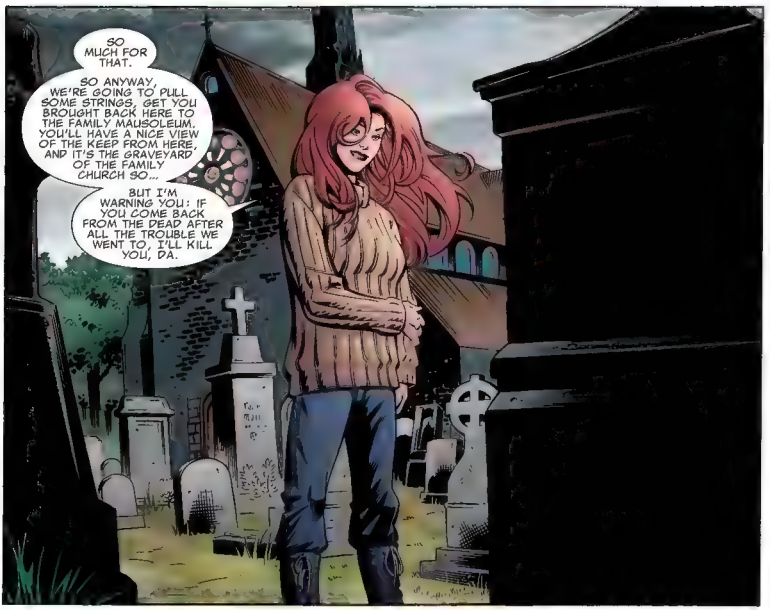
SO WE'RE GOING TO HELP HER, RIGHT?
IF WE CAN, SURE.
NOT "IF WE CAN," WE FIND A WAY.
WE HAVE TO HANDLE ONE THING AT A TIME.
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS THERE'S TWO KIDS COUNTING ON US TO FIND THEIR MOM. LONGSHOT...
YES?
SUE RICHARDS WAS LAST KNOWN TO BE IN THE FANTASTICAR. RICTOR COMBED THROUGH THE CAR WHILE REED AND BEN WERE DISTRACTED.
HE FOUND THIS IN THE FRONT SEAT.
IT'S A BOBBY PIN. PROBABLY DOESN'T BELONG TO REED, JOHNNY OR BEN...
MAYBE IT'S BOBBY'S?
JUST SEE IF YOU CAN GET A READ OFF IT.
I'LL TRY.
A LONG MOMENT PASSES. EVERYTHING IS SILENT. THEN..
SHE'S IN THE CAR...BUT...SHE'S STRUGGLING...
WITH WHO?

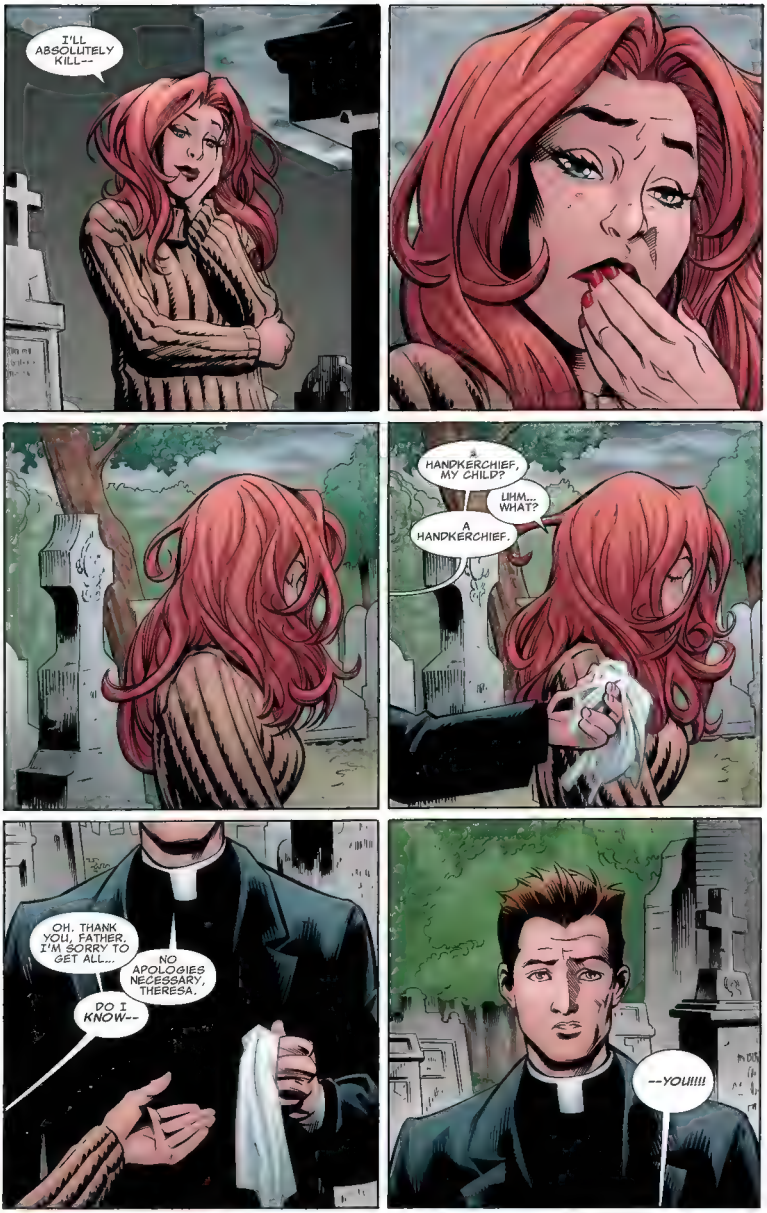

NOT WITH A PERSON, WITH THE VEHICLE ITSELF.
AND WE'RE BEING DRAGGED TOWARD...SOMETHING. SOME SORT OF SPATIAL RIFT IN THE AIR.
AW GOD. I HATE SPATIAL RIFTS.
WE'RE BEING PULLED THROUGH. EVERYTHING'S BLACK. IT...
WAIT, WE'VE...
...WE'VE COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE, OR WHEREVER.
IT'S DARK. COLD. AND THERE'S...
THERE'S SOMEONE COMING. IT'S A WOMAN.
AND SHE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!
SO HARD TO SEE HER... CAN'T QUITE...
WAIT... SHE'S SAYING SOMETHING--
WHAT'S SHE SAYING?
SHE'S SAYING, "HELLO. YOU'RE--

--LONGSHOT, AREN'T YOU.
Y-YES. HOW...HOW ARE YOU--?
SEEING YOU? YEAH, I DO STUFF LIKE THAT.
WE HAVEN'T MET, ACTUALLY. I'M LAYLA MILLER.
WELCOME TO LATVERIA.
IF YOU EVER HAVE THE CHANCE, TRY THE BRATWURST. IT'S TO DIE FOR.

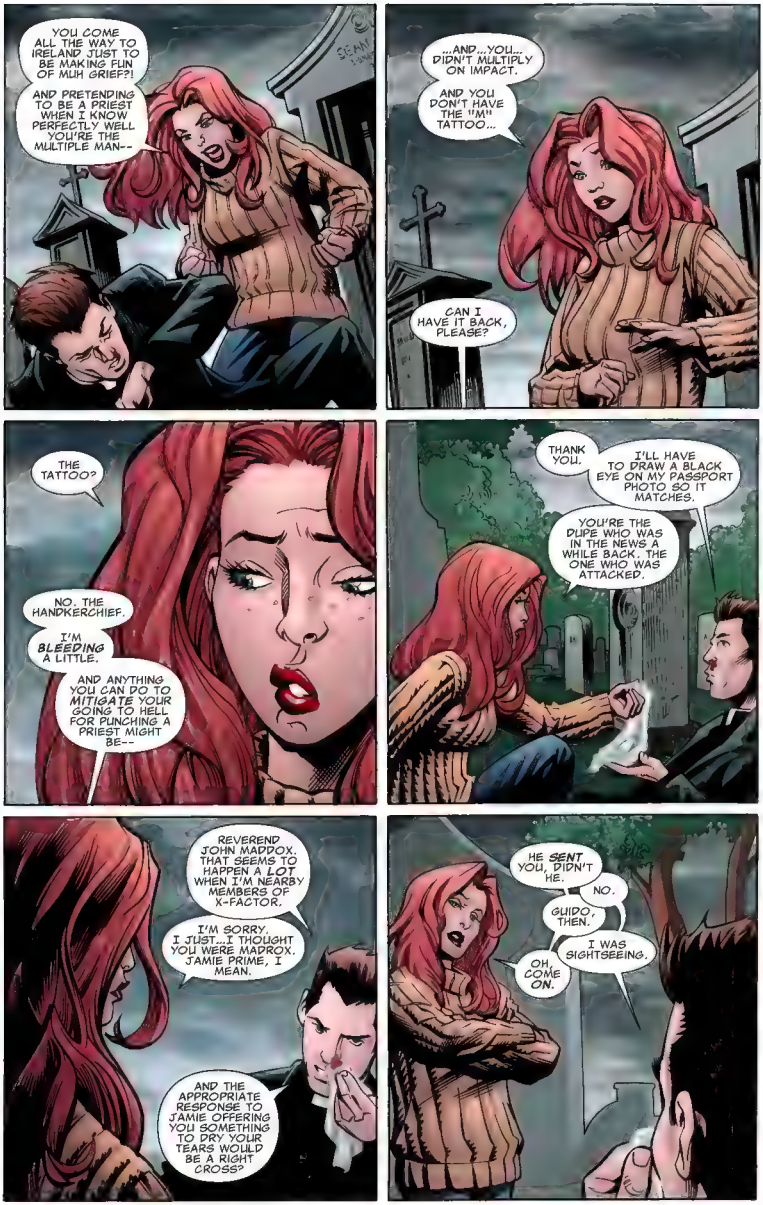

I'M SORRY, DA. I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET THEM BE BURYING YOU IN THE STATES.
SEAN CASSIDY
BELOVED FATHER
R.I.P


MY FAULT IT IS. I JUST...
I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE REALLY GONE. I FIGURED, "WHY FRET? HE'LL BE BACK. WE ALWAYS COME BACK."


SO MUCH FOR THAT.
SO ANYWAY, WE'RE GOING TO PULL SOME STRINGS, GET YOU BROUGHT BACK HERE TO THE FAMILY MAUSOLEUM. YOU'LL HAVE A NICE VIEW OF THE KEEP FROM HERE, AND IT'S THE GRAVEYARD OF THE FAMILY CHURCH SO...
BUT I'M WARNING YOU: IF YOU COME BACK FROM THE DEAD AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE WENT TO, I'LL KILL YOU, DA.


I'LL ABSOLUTELY KILL--
HANDKERCHIEF, MY CHILD?
UHM... WHAT?
A HANDKERCHIEF.
OH. THANK YOU, FATHER. I'M SORRY TO GET ALL...
NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY, THERESA.
DO I KNOW--
--YOU!!!!

HOW DARE YOU, MADROX!
ARRRHHHH!!!
MATTERS of FAITH


YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO IRELAND JUST TO BE MAKING FUN OF MUH GRIEF?!
AND PRETENDING TO BE A PRIEST WHEN I KNOW PERFECTLY WELL YOU'RE THE MULTIPLE MAN--
...AND...YOU... DIDN'T MULTIPLY ON IMPACT.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE "M" TATTOO...
CAN I HAVE IT BACK, PLEASE?
THE TATTOO?
NO. THE HANDKERCHIEF.
I'M BLEEDING A LITTLE.
AND ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO MITIGATE YOUR GOING TO HELL FOR PUNCHING A PRIEST MIGHT BE--
THANK YOU.
I'LL HAVE TO DRAW A BLACK EYE ON MY PASSPORT PHOTO SO IT MATCHES.
YOU'RE THE DUPE WHO WAS IN THE NEWS A WHILE BACK. THE ONE WHO WAS ATTACKED.
REVEREND JOHN MADDOX. THAT SEEMS TO HAPPEN A LOT WHEN I'M NEARBY MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR.
I'M SORRY. I JUST...I THOUGHT YOU WERE MADROX. JAMIE PRIME, I MEAN.
AND THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO JAMIE OFFERING YOU SOMETHING TO DRY YOUR TEARS WOULD BE A RIGHT CROSS?
HE SENT YOU, DIDN'T HE.
NO.
GUIDO, THEN.
I WAS SIGHTSEEING.
OH, COME ON.

COINCIDENCE HAPPENS, TERRY. YOU RUN INTO PEOPLE IN THE DAMNEDEST PLACES.
I'M A PRIEST. I'M IN IRELAND AS PART OF A SEMINAR. I THOUGHT I'D SEE SOME OLD CHURCHES. LO AND BEHOLD, THERE YOU ARE.
LO AND BEHOLD.
OKAY. WELL...I GUESS I'M SORRY I PUNCHED YOU.
I'M SORRY.
YOU GUESS?
I APPRECIATE THAT. LOOK...GUIDO MAY NOT HAVE SENT ME, BUT HE DID TELL ME SOME TIME AGO ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
YOUR FATHER'S PASSING AND YOUR SON...MY CONDOLENCES ON BOTH YOUR LOSSES.
THANKS. WELL...
BYE.
DO YOU WANT TO TALK--?
NO.
I'M NOT A MEMBER OF X-FACTOR ANYMORE.
PARDON?
YOU SAID YOU GET HURT WHEN YOU'RE NEAR MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR. AND I'M NOT ONE. I NEEDED TO CLEAR THAT UP.

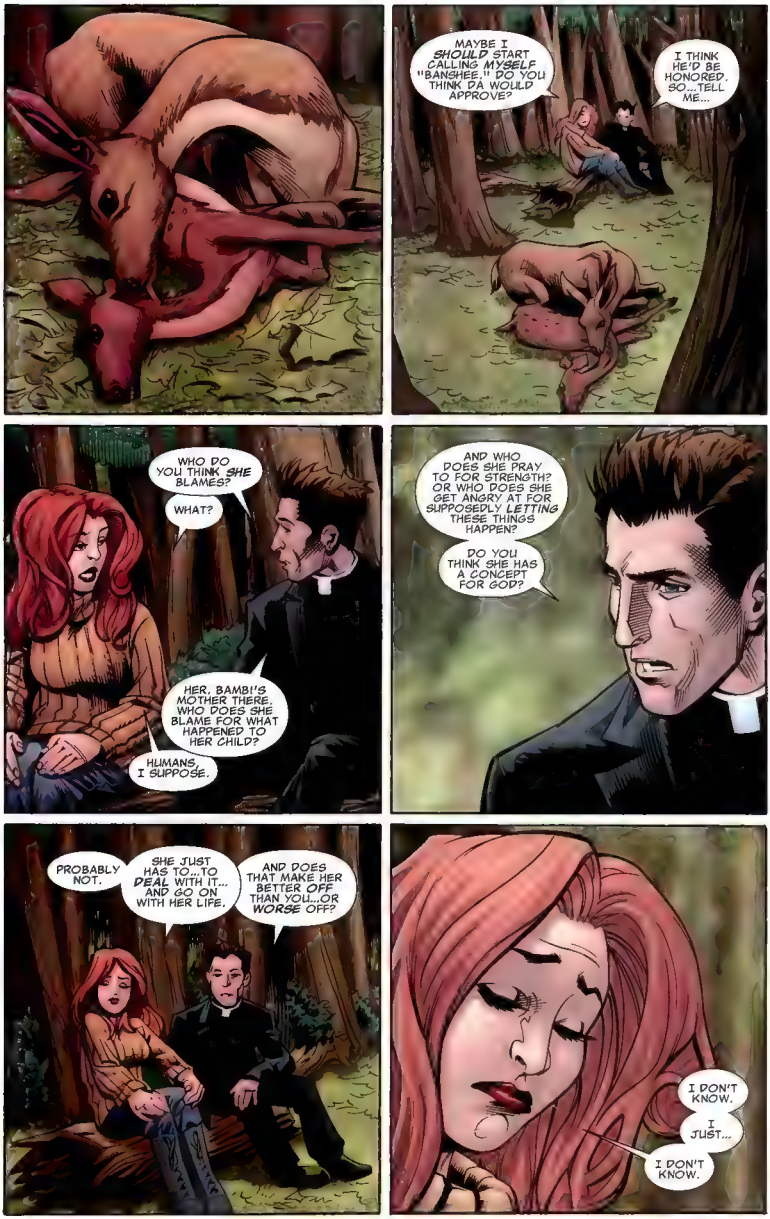
YOU NEEDED TO?
WANTED TO.
ANYTHING ELSE YOU "WANTED" TO DO?
OKAY, YOU HAVE TO STOP FOLLOWING ME.
VERY WELL, IF YOU'RE AFRAID TO TALK--
SERIOUSLY? REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY? YOU FIGURE YOU CALL ME "AFRAID" AND I'LL TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
ABOUT WHAT?
NEVER MIND. IT WAS JUST A STUPID IDEA, OKAY?
OKAY.
WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME, HUH?
YOU MEAN MADROX?
I MEAN YOUR BOSS. GOD. WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME?
WELL... HE HASN'T SHOWN ME THE FILE ON YOU, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING...

YOU'RE NOT A CATHOLIC PRIEST.
EPISCOPAL. BUT A PRIEST OF ANY DENOMINATION RECOGNIZES A SOUL IN PAIN--
YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT. BECAUSE I'VE TALKED TO PRIESTS OF MY FAITH, AND IT'S ALL, YOU KNOW--
IT'S ALL PART OF GOD'S PLAN.
GOD DOESN'T GIVE US ANY MORE HARDSHIPS THAN WE CAN HANDLE.
GOD LOVES YOU.
SO MAYBE YOU CAN SAVE BOTH OF US SOME TIME, IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GIVE ME THE SAME OLD--
GOD HATES YOU.
UHM...OKAY. NONE OF THE OTHER PRIESTS SAID THAT.
NO.
DID YOU PUNCH ANY OF THEM?
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY

SERIOUSLY: GOD HATES YOU. HE LOOKED DOWN AND SAID, "THERESA CASSIDY HAS REALLY PISSED ME OFF--
"--AND I'M GOING TO KEEP BATTERING HER UNTIL SHE BREAKS, BECAUSE I REALLY HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO."
OKAY--
YEAH, FINE, I GET IT.
NO. YOU DON'T.
BAD THINGS HAPPEN, THERESA. TO ME, TO YOU, TO EVERYONE. AND IT'S RANDOM. AND IT'S UNFAIR BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD IS.
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT SAYING GOD HAS A PLAN?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE HE DOES.
AND MAYBE IT'S A GOOD PLAN, OR MAYBE IT'S A LOUSY PLAN.
MAYBE AT THE DAWN OF MAN, IT WAS GOD WHO FELL, NOT LUCIFER, AND EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN ONE MASSIVE COVER-UP.
THEN HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET THROUGH THE DAY, HUH?
WHAT, HIS ONLY SON, IN ORDER TO REDEEM US OF OUR SINS?
WE GET THROUGH THE DAY BECAUSE OF WHAT GOD GAVE US.
NO.
EACH OTHER.
SO GOD SENT YOU TO ME TO TAKE THE RAP FOR HIM?
THANKS. THAT REALLY--
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, EXCEPT...WELL, NOTHING LIKE THAT. BUT SORT OF.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
A GUNSHOT.
YEAH.

IDIOT! WHAT'D YOU SHOOT THE FAWN FOR?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO! THE DAMNED THING RAN IN FRONT OF ITS MOTHER!
YOU'RE JUST A LOUSY SHOT, IS WHAT YOU--
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE

IT'S A BLOODY BANSHEE!
THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE BANSHEE?
NO. THEY THOUGHT I WAS A BANSHEE. MYTHIC HARBINGER OF DEATH...WHICH ARE TRADITIONALLY FEMALE. DON'T ASK ME WHAT DA WAS THINKING WHEN HE PICKED THE NAME.
CRETINS WERE POACHING IN MY FOREST. I LET THEM OFF TOO EASY.
POOR WEE THING.
SHE'S GONE ALREADY.
IS IT--?
OW! HEY--!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! STOP HITTING ME WITH YOUR HEAD!


MAYBE I *SHOULD* START CALLING *MYSELF* "BANSHEE." DO YOU THINK DA WOULD APPROVE?
I THINK HE'D BE HONORED. SO...TELL ME...
WHO DO YOU THINK *SHE* BLAMES?
WHAT?
HER, BAMBI'S MOTHER THERE. WHO DOES SHE BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER CHILD?
HUMANS, I SUPPOSE.
AND WHO DOES SHE PRAY TO FOR STRENGTH? OR WHO DOES SHE GET ANGRY AT FOR *SUPPOSEDLY LETTING* THESE THINGS HAPPEN?
DO YOU THINK SHE HAS A CONCEPT FOR GOD?
PROBABLY NOT.
SHE JUST HAS TO...TO *DEAL* WITH IT... AND GO ON WITH HER LIFE.
AND DOES THAT MAKE HER BETTER *OFF* THAN YOU...OR *WORSE* OFF?
I DON'T KNOW.
I JUST...
I DON'T KNOW.

HANDKERCHIEF?
IT'S A LITTLE BLOODY, BUT...

X-FACTOR 200 Cover Gallery

Production: Ryan Devall • Design: Spring Hoteling

HISTORY: Jamie Madrox's ability to absorb kinetic energy and create instant duplicates of himself became evident moments after his birth, when a doctor spanked him. Presuming their child to be a mutant, scientists Daniel and Joan Madrox contacted mutation expert Professor Charles Xavier. On his advice they quit their jobs at Los Alamos Nuclear Research Center to raise Jamie on an isolated Kansas farm, and Daniel designed an impact-absorbing protective suit to prevent Jamie from accidentally duplicating. When Jamie was 14, Damian Tryp, a temporal anomaly possessing future knowledge, asked Jamie's parents to place Jamie in his care. Tryp claimed the boy was not a mutant, but a "killcrop" like himself, an evolutionary throwback whose powers manifested at birth rather than puberty. Daniel and Joan declined; Tryp blocked Jamie's memories of his visit and created a freak whirlwind, which killed Jamie's parents. Jamie spent the next six years alone until his suit's control elements burned out, and he began absorbing ambient electricity. Frightened, Jamie left the farm to seek help, eventually reaching New York, where the Fantastic Four and Xavier subdued the panicking Jamie and repaired his suit. Professor X suggested Jamie join his students, the X-Men, but Jamie declined, preferring to work as lab assistant to Xavier's associate, Moira MacTaggert, on Muir Island, Scotland.

Jamie was unable to stop Eric the Red (Davan Shakan) when he invaded Muir and freed the captive Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Adopting the code name Multiple Man, Jamie befriended fellow Muir residents Havok (Alex Summers), Polaris (Lorna Dane) and Jean Grey, and, after years with only his "dupes" for company, he developed a secret fear of ever being alone again. When Moira's body-stealing son Mutant X (Kevin MacTaggert, later called Proteus) escaped confinement, he possessed one of Jamie's dupes to get off the island, and for the first time Jamie experienced the psychic trauma of one of his bodies dying. Though Jamie considered his dupes merely extensions of himself, he eventually created one that feared losing his own identity if reabsorbed. Drugging Jamie, the dupe accompanied Moira and fellow Muir resident Siryn (Theresa Cassidy) to New York, where they helped seek two runaway Xavier students, Sunspot and the Technarch alien Warlock. Siryn and the errant dupe found the pair in the company of teenage superhuman gang the Fallen Angels and, unable to convince Sunspot to return home, they joined the Angels as well. During his time with the Angels, the Jamie dupe discovered his own copies sometimes shared a similar reluctance to be reabsorbed, and had a brief romance with Siryn. They stayed with the Fallen Angels for a short time after Sunspot and Warlock returned to Xavier's, but eventually they returned to Muir Island. The rogue dupe erected a mental block to prevent Jamie sensing him and eventually, tired of living in fear, returned to the US, ultimately joining the mercenary Nasty Boys employed by geneticist Mr Sinister.

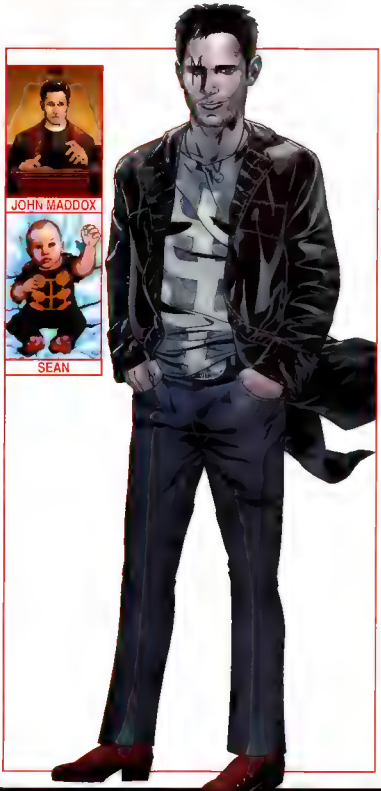
Meanwhile, the Shadow King telepathically possessed Muir's inhabitants for months before Xavier freed them. Afterward, Val Cooper recruited Madrox to join the government-sponsored X-Factor team alongside Havok, Polaris, Strong Guy (Guido Carosella), Wolfsbane (Rahne Sinclair) and Quicksilver (Pietro Maximoff). Senator Steven Shaffran, secretly a mutant able to cloud others' thinking, tried to discredit X-Factor for political gain by paying Sinister and the Nasty Boys to shake public confidence in the new team. Intending to weaken the real Jamie's sense of identity so the Nasty Boys' Jamie could merge as the dominant personality, they murdered a dupe, forcing Jamie to reevaluate his belief that dupes were merely expendable extensions of himself. Then the Nasty Boys' Jamie came forward at X-Factor's press launch to accuse X-Factor's Jamie of being a renegade dupe. Faking the results of a polygraph test, a

Art by Kerry Gammill

REAL NAME: James Arthur "Jamie" Madrox
ALIASES: John Maddox, Legion, He-Whose-Bodies-Are-As-Many-As-The-Leaves-On-A-Tree
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Adventurer, attorney; former private investigator, laboratory assistant, farmer; (duplicates) Episcopalian minister; former Shaolin monk, coroner's assistant, SHIELD agent, actor, magician's assistant, lawyer
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Los Alamos, New Mexico
KNOWN RELATIVES: Daniel & Joan Madrox (parents, deceased); (duplicates) Sheila DeSoto (wife, deceased), Susan Maddox (wife), Daniel Maddox (stepson), Sean Madrox (son/duplicate, absorbed)
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-Factor Investigations (aka XXX Investigators); formerly X-Corporation, X-Corps, X-Factor (government team), X-Men (Muir Island team); (duplicates) Episcopal Church; formerly SHIELD, Nasty Boys, Fallen Angels
EDUCATION: College level graduate courses; several other qualifications learned via duplicates
FIRST APPEARANCE: Giant-Size Fantastic Four #4 (1975)

JOHN MADDOX

SEAN



Art by Pablo Raimondi with Mike McKone (Sean inset)

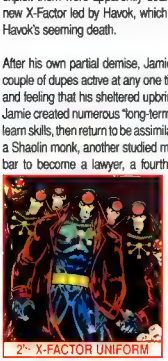
disguised Sinister convinced X-Factor that the Nasty Boys' Jamie was the genuine one; playing along, the real Jamie pretended he too believed this, allowing the renegade to absorb him and be temporarily dominant, while he quietly "disassembled" the rogue from within. Now possessing the rogue's memories, Jamie alerted X-Factor, who publicly exposed Shaffran's plot.

Art by Larry Stroman

1ST X-FACTOR UNIFORM

Jamie was X-Factor's practical joker, attention-seeking behavior motivated by his fear of loneliness, and became best friends with teammate Guido, partly because of their similar senses of humor. When Mutant Liberation Front leader Earth-4935's Stryfe (Cable clone) framed X-Force's Cable for the attempted assassination of Xavier, X-Factor and the X-Men worked together to capture X-Force. While imprisoned, X-Force's Siryn appealed to Jamie, reminding him of their past romance, but to her distress Jamie informed her that she had dated a dupe, and that he retained the memories but not the feelings from their relationship. A short while later X-Factor visited Genosha, where Jamie caught the mutant-killing Legacy Virus. From the outset he kept a couple of uninfected bodies separate, so that part of him might survive, though the infected Jamie, who believed himself the "real" one, was not consciously aware of this. The mutant prophetess Haven (Radha Dastoor) offered to cure him, but failed and Jamie died; the trauma rendered Jamie's surviving body amnesiac. Government agents recognized Jamie and took him into custody, intending to turn him into a one-man army under their control. Shortly after his memories returned, Jamie was freed by Havok but declined to join Havok's new terrorist Brotherhood, going on the run. Sent to capture him, X-Factor discovered the "killer fugitive" they were hunting was Jamie, so they hid him instead and later helped him free Guido, who had similarly fallen into nefarious hands. Jamie went underground again, but after the rogue government elements seeking to exploit them were apparently dealt with, he tentatively agreed to join a new X-Factor led by Havok, which disbanded almost immediately upon Havok's seeming death.

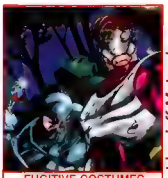
After his own partial demise, Jamie now tried to always have at least a couple of dupes active at any one time. Unsure of what to do with his life, and feeling that his sheltered upbringing had denied him life experience, Jamie created numerous "long-term explorer" dupes, and sent them off to learn skills, then return to be assimilated into the "real" Jamie. One became a Shaolin monk, another studied magic in Las Vegas, a third passed the bar to become a lawyer, a fourth acted with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and so on. The full range of occupations Jamie's dupes undertook remains unrevealed, but at least two eventually decided not to return to the fold: a duty-minded SHIELD agent, and "John Maddox," a married Episcopalian minister who feared losing his wife. Meanwhile Jamie returned to Muir Island for a while, then at Xavier's behest, he worked alongside Forge in a secret monitoring station keeping an eye on the regime of Genosha's new ruler, Magneto. Afterwards, Siryn's father Banshee (Sean Cassidy) recruited Jamie into the paramilitary X-Corps, his dupes working as a mobile army in the field and as support staff in X-Corps' Paris base; however, spreading himself so thinly allowed psychic Mastermind (Martinique Jason) to control many of his dupes, sending them to attack Paris with helicopter gunships. Though his X-Corps teammate M (Monet St. Croix) and the X-Men helped Jamie reabsorb the rogue dupes, the political fallout finished X-Corps. Xavier tried to salvage part of the concept, establishing the X-Corporation with teams stationed around the globe, and Jamie joined the Paris branch alongside M, Siryn, Rictor, Sabra and Darkstar (Laynia Petrovna); however, after Darkstar and several dupes died battling the bacterial consciousness Weapon XII, Jamie quit and returned to the USA.



Art by Jan Duursema

2ND X-FACTOR UNIFORM

Jamie set up XXX Investigators in New York's Mutant Town, working with his old friends Guido and Wolfsbane, but his increasingly unpredictable dupes often manifested exaggerated aspects of his personality. Meanwhile, an explorer dupe sent to experience Chicago's party life married Sheila DeSoto, an ambitious mutant planning to take over the local mobs. Discovering that she considered him merely a suitable fall guy, he fled to New York, but was shot by DeSoto's hitman, Clay, a mutant possessing duplicating powers similar to Jamie's. Making it to XXX's offices, the dupe was reabsorbed by Jamie moments before he would have died; with the trauma having rendered the dupe's memories vague, Jamie went to Chicago to investigate his own murder, eventually exposing Sheila's plot to her mob fiancé Ed Vance, who killed her. After his associates renamed the agency X-Factor Investigations, Jamie used his dupes to win a million dollars on a quiz show and expanded the operation, hiring old colleagues Siryn and M. When most mutants abruptly lost their powers on "M-Day," X-Factor investigated this "Decimation," recruiting the depowered Rictor and 14-year-old prescient Layla Miller. Despite Damian Tryp's Singularity Investigations trying to stop them, X-Factor learned that Quicksilver's reality-warping sister, the Scarlet Witch, had caused M-Day, and that the X-Men had known this and covered it up, a revelation that drove a wedge between Jamie and the X-Men. After the passage of the Superhuman Registration Act (SHRA), Jamie held a press conference to announce X-Factor's opposition to the new law, promising aid to anyone seeking to break it; since Jamie was already registered due to his past government service, Val Cooper quietly blocked any government reprisals against X-Factor, so long as their statement of civil disobedience did not translate into action. Meanwhile, Jamie's love life became increasingly complicated; not only did Layla tease him by suggesting she foresaw them marrying when she was older, but thanks to at least one errant dupe, Jamie seduced both M and Siryn on the same night. Unsure of how to tell them, he compounded his error by continuing both relationships simultaneously, and unwittingly implanted both partners with embryonic dupes, creating dual phantom pregnancies; M would later unconsciously abort the dupe within her, with no one realizing at the time that she had been pregnant.



Art by Jeff Matsuda

FUGITIVE COSTUMES

When X-Factor infiltrated Singularity Investigations seeking evidence that Tryp was developing a new version of the Legacy Virus, Tryp's future self terrified Wolfsbane with a vision of her slaying Jamie and Layla on the couple's wedding night. Meanwhile, one of Jamie's dupes recalled that Tryp had murdered Jamie's parents, and blew up Singularity's offices. Shortly afterwards, on psychiatrist Doc Samson's advice, Jamie told Siryn and M about his two-timing; with neither woman speaking to him, Jamie followed Samson's other advice, hoping to regain control of his dupes by absorbing his remaining explorers. He reabsorbed his SHIELD

agent dupe, despite interference from both SHIELD and the terrorist Hydra organization, which sought to brainwash him; however, upon discovering Minister John Maddox had a wife Shiela and son Daniel (the result of an affair Shiela had had), Jamie let him keep his independent existence. Another dupe, who had become an outstanding detective, informed Jamie that he had divined the true source of Jamie's powers and why the dupes were becoming uncontrollable. but insisted the truth was too depressing to share, and committed suicide to prevent Jamie from learning it.

Shortly afterwards, the X-Men asked Jamie to send two dupes into the future; following M-Day, Forge's chronal tracer had detected no mutants in any potential future timeline, but with the recent birth of the first mutant child since Decimation. two timelines now registered mutants again. Wanting to gather data from them. Forge devised a time machine, but the traveler would be trapped in the future; however, Forge reasoned that Jamie's dupes could reconnoiter the timelines, then send back their memories to present-day Jamie by committing suicide. One dupe was dispatched to an as-yet-unrevealed future, while the other was sent forward 80 years into Reality-1191, the timeline the X-Man Bishop originated from; as Forge activated the time machine, Layla jumped on the platform with Jamie's dupe, insisting she needed to accompany him. Arriving in a world where mutants were outlawed, the pair was swiftly arrested. had the letter M indelibly tattooed on their faces, and were placed in an internment camp. Finding a young Bishop in the camp, they learned that the newborn mutant child started a war that produced this dystopia, Layla then tearfully killed Jamie's dupe, sending both the information and the M-brand tattoo back to present-day Jamie, who sadly realized he had no way of retrieving Layla.

Jamie's world continued falling apart, as Rahne quit X-Factor hoping to avoid the future Tryp had shown her, Val Cooper pressured Jamie to have X-Factor work for her, and the assassin Arcade turned Mutant Town into a giant Murderworld death trap; however, learning that Siryn was pregnant with his child, the stunned Jamie took this as positive news. They renewed their relationship and X-Factor went underground, relocating to Detroit to evade Val. Though she found them a few months later, they brokered a truce, carrying out selected missions for Cooper in return for autonomy the rest of the time. When Siryn went into labor, she proposed to Jamie. who accepted. Shortly afterwards she gave birth to a boy, Sean, but as soon as Jamie touched his "son," he reabsorbed him: the revelation that their child was a dupe shattered Jamie, and a horrified Siryn angrily rejected him for "killing" their child. Madrox went to see Maddox, who admitted his child, Daniel. was not his own. Telling Maddox to live his life for both of them, Madrox was about to commit suicide when he was stopped by a hologram of a now-adult Layla, who transported him back to Reality-1191 to help the rebellion she had started. Meanwhile, in the present day, an unidentified gunman made a failed attempt to murder Maddox.

Art by Aaron Lopresti

Art by Dennis Calero

HEIGHT: 5'11" **EYES:** Blue
WEIGHT: 155 lbs. **HAIR:** Brown; formerly blond

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Physical impact causes Jamie to instantaneously create duplicates, or "dupes," of himself; normally these are identical to Jamie, down to clothing and items carried, though his dupes, infertile in the normal sense, can apparently generate embryonic versions inside sexual partners, that grow like regular babies within the host. The duplication process is spontaneous and beyond Madrox's control. Creating a full-sized dupe inside a living being causes the host to explode without harming the dupe. Both Jamie and his dupes can create further dupes, though only one at a time. He formerly had an upper limit of around 40 dupes, but has since exceeded that, and his upper limit, if he still has one, now numbers in the hundreds; however, the more he creates, the more vulnerable each becomes to external mind control. Conversely, he can break existing brainwashing by absorbing or creating enough dupes. Normally dupes vanish if the "real" Jamie is knocked unconscious, but after an unspecified amount of time, dupes become sufficiently independent to maintain their existence regardless. It is uncertain what would happen to long-term dupes if the original Jamie died; it is possible that the Jamie who died from the Legacy Virus was the original, and that his recent dupe instability is because Jamie survives only as a dupe. Dupes think, feel, and act independently, and often manifest exaggerated versions of one aspect of his personality. Jamie retains an empathic link to his dupes; he can sense relatively new dupes' pain from hundreds of miles away, and track dupes via his link even after years of separation. Absorbing an injured dupe formerly resulted in the merged form suffering an injury roughly half as severe; currently he suffers no physical injury, but experiences the psychological trauma instead. When he absorbs a dupe, he gains their skills and memories, though not any emotions connected to same. If a dupe has been separated for a long time, the assimilation process can render Jamie temporarily insensible. Since his powers became unstable, Jamie also gains the memories of any dupe that dies, no matter how far apart they are (even across time); older dupes created prior to the power fluctuations do not surrender their memories upon dying. Originally Jamie needed to touch a dupe to reabsorb him; Shaolin training now allows him to reabsorb a dupe up to hundreds of meters away, even against their will.

In part via his explorer dupes, Madrox possesses an eclectic variety of skills. He is trained in human anatomy, Shaolin monk martial arts and stealth techniques, escapology and stage magic (including throwing playing cards with lethal proficiency), acting, espionage and first aid. He is a qualified lawyer and speaks fluent Russian and Hawaiian. Madrox's original costume absorbed kinetic energy, preventing accidental duplication. While malfunctioning, it enhanced Madrox's strength in proportion to the absorbed energy; just before it was repaired, Jamie was draining all electrical power in Manhattan and could lift in excess of 70 tons.

LAYLA MILLER

REAL NAME: Layla Rose Miller
ALIASES: "Butterfly"
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Resistance fighter, former file clerk
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: Unidentified parents (deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Summers rebellion (Reality-1191); formerly X-Factor Investigations; Human Resistance Movement (Reality-58163, "House of M")
EDUCATION: Elementary school education
FIRST APPEARANCE: House of M #4 (2005)

HISTORY: After Layla Miller's parents died in a car accident, she was sent to New York's St. Joan Orphanage. While there, Layla manifested mutant powers, growing horns and breathing fire, frightening and alienating the human orphans. When the delusional Scarlet Witch rewrote reality to make mutants the dominant species (Reality-58163, the "House of M"), Layla's parents were resurrected, and a normal-looking Layla now had new powers, enabling her to remember the old world and to restore the memories of others. Dr. Strange (Stephen Strange) has theorized this new power was the Scarlet Witch's subconscious providing a way to reverse her actions. Despite knowing that restoring the conventional Reality-616 would destroy her idyllic new life, Layla unlocked numerous heroes' memories: they confronted the Scarlet Witch, who restored reality to normal but depowered most of Earth's mutants at the same time, an event later dubbed "M-Day." Layla awoke back in the orphanage, seemingly no longer a mutant, but now aware of probable futures and how to promote one over another. With this foreknowledge, she ran away and approached mutant detective agency X-Factor. Concealing her motives, Layla helped them investigate Singularity Investigations and its similarly prescient head, Damian Tryp. He was recreating the mutant-killing Legacy Virus to prevent a future where repowered mutants destroyed humanity (Earth-6124), but Layla's presence proved a random factor Tryp could not anticipate, and X-Factor destroyed Singularity Investigations. Miller's prescience often unsettled her teammates, especially Jamie Madrox (Multiple Man), who the 13-year-old Layla claimed was her future husband. Regarding Scarlet Witch's brother Quicksilver as dangerous and generally despising him, Layla tried to arrange his death, but failed because he possessed a small portion of his sister's chaos power, making him unpredictable; depowered by M-Day, he had gained new powers from stolen Terrigen crystals, but he lost these abilities thanks in part to Layla's manipulations. Tryp's silent partner, the Isolationist (Josef Huber), plotted to slaughter Earth's remaining mutants, aware of Layla, he had Nicole, a robotic simulacrum of a young, depowered mutant, infiltrate X-Factor, its chaotic randomizing generator disrupting Layla's foresight. Nicole tried to murder Layla, but an unhinged Quicksilver rescued her, claiming he did this so he could kill Layla himself. Escaping him, Layla warned X-Factor in time to thwart Huber, and lured Nicole into the path of an oncoming train

Layla foresaw visiting a terrifying future, where she would need to permit herself to be held in a mutant internment camp for the sake of achieving her overall goals. The birth of a new mutant, the first since M-Day, triggered hope that it might be possible to restore mutantkind, and Madrox sent two of his duplicates to gather information from alternate futures where this restoration succeeded. Layla jumped in on one of the time jumps, ending up 80 years ahead in a world where a mutant/human race war had concluded with mutants in camps (Earth-1191). Incarcerated, she and the Madrox duplicate learned that the newborn in their own time had started the war, and Layla slew the duplicate so that his knowledge would be transmitted back to Earth-616. Though displaced from her own time, Layla soon communicated through the timelines to Madrox herself, somehow informing him that their teammate Siryn was pregnant with his child. Escaping the camp, Layla worked with Ruby Summers building a rebellion against the anti-mutant regime. When she was 21, Layla found a means to bring Jamie Madrox to her from Earth-616, though from his perspective less than a year had passed since Layla had been lost in the future.

HEIGHT: 5'7"
WEIGHT: 132 lbs.
EYES: Green
HAIR: Strawberry blonde

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Layla can see portions of possible futures; combined with manipulative interpersonal skills and her ability to think ahead, she arranges events to encourage the outcome she desires. She views herself as a pawn, but one that is aware of the game and the players, allowing her to pick her own moves. Chaotically or temporally charged individuals disrupt her predictive ability. She claims to know the source of her power, but insists revealing it would cause her immediate death. She sometimes registers to detectors as a mutant, other times as a normal human. While her body was in a trance, Layla was able to appear to Madrox, despite their being 80 years apart; how she managed this is unrevealed. Before M-Day she could breathe fire; during the House of M reality warp, she could telepathically restore buried memories.

POWER GRID

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

Art by Olivier Coipel with Valentine De Landro (insets)

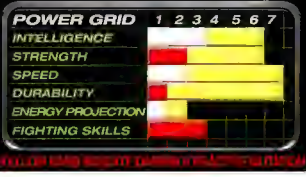
HISTORY: Born a strange-looking mutant, Armando Munoz was left alone with his mother at age 4 after his father rejected him and left. His mother resented Armando for this, and he resolved to make her happy again. Four years later, testing revealed his genius-level intelligence and private academies offered to fund his further education; this pleased his mother, albeit not for the reasons Armando had hoped for. His mother gladly enrolled him in the Biltmore Academy boarding school, where he was bullied relentlessly for years due to his appearance until, at age 15, his latent mutant ability manifested and he fought back, subconsciously hardening his hands and beating the bullies unconscious. Later, during a visit home, he saved his mother's life after her smoking caused a fire. The senior scientist at Biltmore tested Armando and published a paper about his ability that outed him as a mutant and dubbed him "Darwin, the Evolving Boy." Rejected by his mother, Armando attempted suicide, but his mutation saved him. The resident psychiatrist recommended Armando to renowned geneticist Moira MacTaggert, who took him in and began training him in the use of his powers. He and MacTaggert's other young students were later recruited by Moira's colleague Professor Charles Xavier to join his X-Men and rescue the team's original members from the living island Krakoa. The monster killed three of Darwin's teammates, but not before they sent him and Kid Vulcan to safety deep underground. After the X-Men hurled Krakoa into space, unaware of the two survivors, Darwin instinctively converted himself into pure energy and bonded with Kid Vulcan, trying to keep them both alive.

Years later, the reality-altering "M-Day" event revived Kid Vulcan. Darwin's consciousness also reawakened inside Vulcan, but he was helpless to prevent Vulcan's vengeful attacks on the X-Men. Telepathically liberated by Rachel Summers during this conflict, Darwin regained physical form as his mutation quickly rebuilt his body. After recuperating at Xavier's Institute, Darwin agreed to help Xavier locate Vulcan, who had left Earth bound for the interstellar Shi'ar Empire of his birth. Rejoining the X-Men, Darwin helped commandeer a Shi'ar ship and they set off in pursuit of Vulcan. Ambushed by Warskrulls, Darwin witnessed Xavier's kidnapping and secretly hitched a ride on the kidnapper's shuttle, which arrived at the Shi'ar High Council's Starways. Attempting to rescue Xavier, Darwin was captured and imprisoned after seeing former Shi'ar Majestor D'ken reclaim the throne. Confronted by Vulcan, Darwin learned of his plans to marry D'ken's sister Deathbird and to execute Xavier on their wedding day. Taken to the ceremony at the site of the M'kraan Crystal dimensional nexus, Darwin witnessed an assault on the ceremony by the X-Men and their allies, deposed Shi'ar Majestrix Lilandra and interstellar pirates the Starjammers. When Vulcan threw Xavier into the Crystal, Darwin dove in after him, protected from the Crystal's mind-shattering effects by his mutation. Darwin rescued Xavier and retreated with him to the X-Men's ship, unaware that Lilandra had pre-programmed it to return them to Earth to ensure Xavier's safety. Later, when the Hulk sought to kidnap Xavier, Darwin opposed him alongside the X-Men, the New X-Men and X-Factor Investigations. Darwin's power reacted by absorbing the gamma energy from the Hulk; however, Darwin was forced to leave the battle when his power instinctively teleported him away in response to Hulk's savage assault.

REAL NAME: Armando Munoz
ALIASES: The Evolving Boy
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Adventurer; former student
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Unidentified parents
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-Men
EDUCATION: Muir-MacTaggert Research & Development Institute, New York; Biltmore Academy for Advanced Education, New York; unidentified middle school
FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men: Deadly Genesis #2 (2006)

HEIGHT: 6'4"
WEIGHT: 150 lbs.
EYES: (Originally) brown; (currently) White (no visible iris)
HAIR: None

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Darwin's mutation is in a state of continual reaction, adapting to whatever his current situation demands. For example, if placed in total darkness his eyes automatically adapt to allow him to see; if underwater he grows functioning gills; if exposed to fire his body becomes fireproof; if falling, his bones soften and his body elasticizes to cushion his landing; or if exposed to the void of space, he no longer requires oxygen and the density of his skin and internal structure increase. His mutation's adaptivity seems limitless; however, he lacks conscious control, and his adaptations are purely instinctive. Thus far, Darwin's mutation has not displayed any capacity for generating energy beyond converting his physical form into same. It has also afforded him a genius-level intellect, and he has shown the capacity to learn new skills and languages with only limited exposure.



Art by Marc Silvestri with Pete Woods & Billy Tan (insets)

SIRYN

REAL NAME: Theresa Rourke Cassidy
ALIASES: Terry, "Screaming Mimi"
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Private detective; former adventurer, research assistant, criminal, student
CITIZENSHIP: Ireland
PLACE OF BIRTH: Cassidy Keep, County Mayo, Ireland
KNOWN RELATIVES: Sean ("son," reabsorbed), Sean Cassidy (Banshee, father, deceased), Maeve Rourke Cassidy (mother, deceased), Thomas Cassidy (Black Tom, paternal first cousin once removed), Victoria "Tori" Donnely (maternal first cousin once removed)
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-Factor Investigations; formerly X-Corps, X-Force (Cable-founded), Muir Island X-Men, Muir Island research staff, Fallen Angels, partnered with Black Tom Cassidy & Juggernaut (Cain Marko)
EDUCATION: Boarding school
FIRST APPEARANCE: Spider-Woman #37 (1981)

HISTORY: Wooed by rival mutant cousins, Maeve Rourke eventually chose the charming and honest Sean Cassidy over the suave Tom; though upset at losing, Tom was Sean's best man at the couple's wedding. Sean's work as an undercover Interpol agent took him away incommunicado soon after the honeymoon. During this lengthy absence, Maeve learned she was pregnant and gave birth to their daughter, Theresa, only to be killed in a terrorist bombing when Theresa was still an infant. Unable to contact Sean, Tom looked after Theresa until Sean returned, hoping that learning he had a daughter might lessen Sean's pain at losing Maeve, but the devastated Sean attacked Tom for not taking better care of Maeve before Tom could inform him about the child. Angrily, Tom decided to not tell Sean about Theresa, raising her himself, a deception made easier by Sean leaving to throw himself into his work in an attempt to forget his loss; he would go on to become the X-Man Banshee. Theresa grew up with her "uncle" Tom, who later became the criminal known as Black Tom. At age twelve, Theresa was sent to boarding school, where she began experimenting with alcohol, which quickly turned to addiction as she began drinking harder liquor more frequently. After she heard Tom had been jailed, Theresa broke contact with him. At some point, Theresa's mutant powers manifested, allowing her to emit a sonic scream much like her father's. Sometime later, Black Tom and his criminal partner, the indestructible Juggernaut, recruited Theresa to aid them in their crimes. Having missed him during their estrangement, Theresa played along, adopting the alias Siryn and wearing a costume provided by Tom that was patterned after Banshee's. Siryn helped Tom rob a San Francisco bank, which led to their defeat by Spider-Woman (Jessica Drew) and the X-Men. Feeling guilty about using Theresa, Tom exonerated her of involvement in the crime, released her to the X-Men's custody, and finally informed both Theresa and Sean of one another, leading to a joyous and long overdue first meeting between them.

Theresa moved to Muir Island with Banshee, working as a research assistant for her father's lover, renowned scientist Moira MacTaggert. When Magneto (Max Eisenhardt), then-headmaster of X-Men founder Charles Xavier's mutant school, asked Moira for help in tracking two runaway students, Sunspot (Roberto Da Costa) and the Technarch Warlock, Siryn and coworker Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, were sent to help search; unknown to Siryn, the Madrox who joined her on the trip was an errant duplicate, not the primary Madrox. Finding the two runaways with the superhuman delinquent Fallen Angels, Siryn and "Madrox" stayed with the group when Sunspot and Warlock refused to leave; during this time, Theresa and "Madrox" became romantically involved. Following some on-and-off planet misadventures, and the runaways' return to Xavier, Siryn and "Madrox" briefly remained with the Angels before returning to Muir Island, only to fall almost immediately under the astral entity Shadow King's influence. Unaware he was corrupting them, Moira organized some of Muir's residents into a substitute X-Men team to replace the then missing X-Men. The Shadow King manipulated the Muir Islanders into clashing with the X-Men and X-Factor, during which conflict Siryn battled her father. After the Shadow King was defeated, Siryn left Muir Island and went on a quest of self-discovery.

After helping Cable's X-Force stop Black Tom and Juggernaut after they took a New York skyscraper hostage, Siryn joined the team. When Xavier was shot and nearly killed by Stryfe (believed to be Cable), X-Force was implicated and tracked down by the X-Men and Havok (Alex Summers)'s X-Factor. Siryn battling X-Factor's Madrox. Following their defeat, the X-Men held X-Force captive for several days during which Siryn confronted Madrox about their former relationship, but he informed her that he lacked any emotional connection to his duplicate's memories of their past romance. Siryn soon started drinking again, but her teammate Warpath covered for her, cleaning up after her and offering her unconditional friendship. Her ongoing struggles with alcoholism led her and Warpath back to Ireland, where she struggled to find her roots. After an intense confrontation with Black Tom at Maeve's grave, Siryn resolved to overcome her addiction. Siryn also resisted Warpath's romantic intentions, though she considered him her closest friend.
Siryn aided her team against the mutant-hunting Upstarts and Earth-811's future's advanced Sentinel Nimrod, and then helped her father

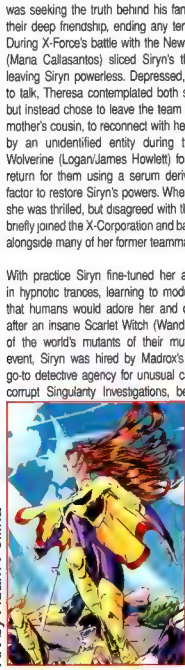
Art by Ryan Sook with Steve Leialoha (inset)

Art by Rob Liefeld

track down Black Tom, bringing Siryn into contact with the regenerative assassin Deadpool, who developed romantic feelings for her. The two battled Tom and Juggernaut, and developed a lasting, deep camaraderie. Siryn was appointed X-Force's second-in-command and worked hard to excel in this position. At Cable's request, Siryn infiltrated the Weisman Institute for the Criminally Insane to investigate suspected improprieties with patients; she was held for a time against her will until Deadpool rescued her, though her memory of what she learned there was erased by the telepathic Gamesmaster (Jeremy Stevens). Soon after, with her memories restored, she rescued Deadpool from the Weisman Institute. Siryn found herself growing jealous of Warpath's new girlfriend, Risqué (Glona Munoz), though Risqué soon departed.

After battling the anti-mutant Operation: Zero Tolerance alongside the Mutant Liberation Front, Siryn chose to strike out on her own alongside other X-Force teammates who were reluctant to have Cable assign them fake identities to hide behind. Siryn accompanied Warpath, who was seeking the truth behind his family's murder, a trip that solidified their deep friendship, ending any tension that had previously existed. During X-Force's battle with the New Hellions, former teammate Feral (Maria Callasantos) sliced Siryn's throat, severing her vocal cords, leaving Siryn powerless. Depressed, feeling out of place and unable to talk, Theresa contemplated both suicide and returning to drinking, but instead chose to leave the team and stay with her "Aunt" Tori, her mother's cousin, to reconnect with herself. Siryn was briefly possessed by an unidentified entity during this period. Deadpool captured Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett) for the organization Watchtower in return for them using a serum derived from their prisoner's healing factor to restore Siryn's powers. When Theresa awoke fully recovered, she was thrilled, but disagreed with the ethics of Deadpool's deal. She briefly joined the X-Corporation and battled Weapon XII (aka Huntsman) alongside many of her former teammates.

With practice Siryn fine-tuned her ability to sonically place listeners in hypnotic trances, learning to modulate her voice a certain way so that humans would adore her and do whatever she wished. Shortly after an insane Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) stripped the majority of the world's mutants of their mutant powers during the "M-Day" event, Siryn was hired by Madrox's X-Factor Investigations (XI), the go-to detective agency for unusual cases. There, she investigated the corrupt Singularity Investigations, being brutally beaten by Damian Tryp Jr. — the "son" (actually younger temporal incarnation) of Singularity's CEO — during the course of her investigations, and left in an alley, where she was found and tortured by the mad depowered mutant Dr. Leery until her teammate Rictor rescued her. While recovering from her ordeals, Siryn learned of her father's apparent death, but refused to believe it, even after inheriting the family's Irish castle, Cassidy Keep. XI took a public stance during the superhuman civil war, holding a press conference to denounce the Superhuman Registration Act. Later, Siryn used her powers to learn the truth about "M-Day" from Spider-Man (Peter Parker), and discovered that the X-Men were suppressing the truth of Scarlet Witch's involvement in order to prevent global chaos. Anger at the deception badly strained the relationship between the organizations.



Art by Adam Pollina

Two of Madrox's duplicates separately seduced both Siryn and her teammate M (Monet St. Croix) on the same night; unaware of this two-timing, Siryn fell in love with him once more, both women furious when he finally confessed the duplicity. Both women were left "pregnant" with an infant Madrox duplicate, though M's body subconsciously "aborted" her phantom pregnancy. Learning of her "pregnancy," Siryn reconciled with Madrox. Refusing to become government agents, XI relocated to Detroit, Michigan; months later, Siryn went into labor, having a Cesarean section because the baby was being born breeched. Following the birth, Siryn proposed to Madrox, who accepted. She named the baby Sean, after her father, who she finally, reluctantly accepted had died. However, when Madrox held Sean for the first time, he unintentionally absorbed the baby duplicate into himself, as he would with any other duplicate. A hysterical Siryn attacked Madrox, opening her stitches, requiring further surgery. While recovering, Siryn calmly broke Madrox's finger and threatened to break his neck the next time she saw him; Madrox subsequently left XI. Siryn, now angry and bitter over her lost "child," continues to serve with XI.

HEIGHT: 5'7"
WEIGHT: 130 lbs.
EYES: Green
HAIR: Red

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Siryn's superhumanly powerful lungs, throat and vocal cords can produce a sonic scream, which she directs with a limited, reflexive psionic power. Using these in concert, she can hover or fly at the speed of sound; she can carry at least one passenger without strain. She can overwhelm listeners with deafening noise, stun them with tight-focus low-frequency sonic blasts (effective even against shielded ears by penetrating the skull via bone conduction), plunge them into a hypnotic trance, or cause disorientation, nausea, or unconsciousness. Using sonic waves, she can rapidly vibrate herself or other masses at will. She can generate sonic blasts or lances that strike with tremendous concussive force, or at their highest level, can liquefy or disintegrate targets. By radiating sound waves outward and reading the feedback, she can locate and analyze unseen objects in a sonar-like fashion. By modulating her scream's harmonics, she can confuse most scanning equipment, and can instinctively analyze, replicate and block sonic waves or vibrations from other sources. She generates a psionic field that protects her from the detrimental effects of her sonic vibrations, though her sonic powers can still injure her when pushed beyond safe limits. She has also produced sonic force fields. Siryn has selective hearing, enabling her to focus on, enhance or totally block out any given sound in her environment; this shields her from the deafening sound of her own scream, and makes her a superhumanly acute eavesdropper in surveillance situations. Siryn can modulate her voice to cause humans to adore her and obey her, though she must remain calm to do so; this ability is ineffective against mutants or when her target's ears are covered. Siryn wears a Kevlar choker to protect her throat from external attacks.

REAL NAME: Monet Yvette Clarisse Maria Therese St. Croix; formerly Claudette and Nicole St. Croix

ALIASES: (All) Formerly Penance, "Penny"; (twins, with Emplate) formerly M-Plate; (Monet) formerly "Stinky"

IDENTITY: (Twins) Secret; (Monet) Public

OCCUPATION: (Twins) Presumably students; former adventurer; (Monet) adventurer, private investigator; former student

CITIZENSHIP: (Twins) Algeria; (Monet) Algeria, France and Bosnia

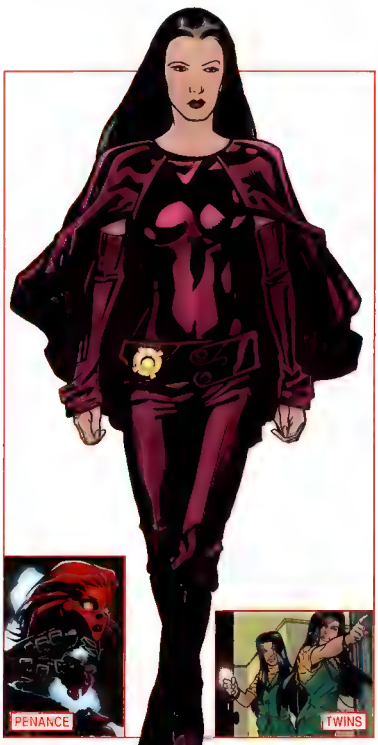
PLACE OF BIRTH: (Twins) Algiers, Algeria, (Monet) Sarajevo, Bosnia

KNOWN RELATIVES: Cartier St. Croix (father), unidentified mother (deceased), each other (sisters), Marius St. Croix (Emplate, brother), Louis St. Croix (grandfather), Lenore St. Croix (grandfather's wife, deceased)

GROUP AFFILIATION: (Twins) Formerly Generation X; (Monet) X-Factor Investigations/XF Investigations; formerly X-Corporation Europe, X-Corps, Generation X

EDUCATION: (Twins) Studied at Massachusetts Academy; (Monet) Studied at Massachusetts Academy and DeLaCorte's Boarding School

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Twins as "Monet") Uncanny X-Men #316 (1994); (Twins as M, Monet as Penance) Generation X San Diego Preview (1994); (Monet as M) Generation X Underground Special (1998)



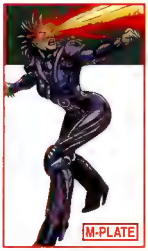
HISTORY: The St. Croix siblings, Monet, Marius and twins Nicole and Claudette, all mutants, were pampered descendants of Algerian royalty. Their grandfather, Louis, was an ambassador and longtime member of Professor X's Mutant Underground, and their wealthy father, Cartier, was formerly president of several corporations. The twins, whose powers developed early, were tutored by the aboriginal mutant Gateway — but Monet, mastering her own wide array of abilities, grew up haughty, pompous and spoiled. When Marius' powers surfaced, he developed an insatiable hunger for mutants' genetic marrow, and fed on his own mother, killing her. After their grieving father threw him out, Marius turned to the dark arts of the nether realms for more power. He eventually returned and invited Monet to join him in conquering another dimension, but she scornfully rejected him. Fed up with her high-handed attitude towards him, Marius magically trapped her in the form of a mute creature with razor-sharp, diamond-hard red skin. The twins arrived and, not recognizing Monet, believed their brother had killed her. Claudette opened a portal, banishing Marius to another dimension — and the transformed Monet followed, seeing him as the only way to return to normal. To spare their father from a broken heart at the loss of his favorite daughter, the twins used their powers to merge into a single being that duplicated Monet mentally and physically.

As "Monet," the twins were captured by the techno-organic alien Phalanx race, who sought to assimilate mutants into their collective "Monet" and her fellow prisoners were rescued by an ad hoc X-Men team led by Banshee, and she took the code name M and joined Generation X, a team of trainee mutants at the Massachusetts Academy under co-headmasters Banshee and Emma Frost. Meanwhile, after months of imprisonment — during which Marius, now calling himself Emplate, used her as a source of sustenance — the true Monet was rescued and taken to the Academy by Gateway. Dubbed "Penance," Monet was distrustful of her new surroundings. Her new form made it difficult to think and impossible to speak — and unaware of the twins' merger, she was confused by the presence of "herself." However, befriended by Jubilee, Monet soon accepted her new situation and ultimately joined the team. Meanwhile, despondent over his recent familial losses, Cartier suffered a minor nervous breakdown — but eventually recovered, joining his father in the Mutant Underground and eventually becoming an ambassador as well.

M battled villains like Gene Nation and Omega Red alongside her new teammates, only betraying her true nature through occasional childish acts and a "diary" full of crayon drawings. However, she occasionally lapsed into semi-catatonic fugue states during periods of intense concentration, a result of Claudette's autism. M's attitude and refusal to explain herself made bonding with the other students difficult; when Emplate later attacked the school, he revealed their familial relationship, causing her teammates to distrust her. Nevertheless, M helped rescue her teammate Synch, who had been corrupted by Emplate, and continued to aid the team in battles against such foes as Fenris (Strucker twins) and D'Spayre. She also invited several of her teammates to her Monaco home for Christmas break. Eventually, during a battle with Prime Sentinels, M's true nature was revealed when an explosion separated her into the twins. Penance, finally understanding what had happened but unable to explain it to the team, became protective of the comatose twins. When Emplate attacked again, the twins awakened and merged with him, briefly forming an entity called M-Plate, and learned Monet's fate from his mind. After separating, the twins revealed the truth to the team and merged with the Penance form, freeing Monet but becoming trapped themselves. Monet took up the code name M, and promised to find Emplate and free her sisters. Emotionally damaged from her time in captivity, Monet battled depression, nightmares and suicidal thoughts by retreating further behind her aloof, condescending persona. She confronted Jubilee over perceived humiliations suffered as Penance, and began to develop feelings for Synch. In battle, she proved every bit her sisters' equal, helping the team defeat the cyber-morph Paradox,

Art by Ryan Sook with Chris Bachalo (Penance) & Terry Dodson (twins)

the Orphan-Maker, the Dark Beast-led Gene Nation, Hunter Brawn, and Emma Frost's evil sister Adrienne.



Art by Terry Dodson

During another battle with Emplate, Jubilee defeated him with an explosion that also freed the twins from the Penance form — which, surprisingly, lived on without any discernible host. Shortly thereafter, M's father took the twins home and withdrew M from the Academy, enrolling her in a private boarding school in the Swiss Alps. She soon discovered the headmaster was secretly a vampire feeding on students, defeated him, and returned to the Massachusetts Academy, where she romanced Synch. However, Emma's sister Adrienne had created a dangerous anti-mutant sentiment at the school, which was now also open to human students, and Penance was sent to live with Cartier for her own safety. Synch was ultimately killed by one of several bombs that Adrienne planted around the campus, and as the school was made private once more, M and Jubilee bonded over their shared grief. The students soon quit and the Academy closed, and M spent some time in Algeria. Later, she and former teammates Husk and Jubilee joined Banshee's paramilitary X-Corps, forming a mini-squad nicknamed "Banshee's Angels" to keep an eye on their former headmaster. They aided him against a coup from within by Mystique, but the X-Corps was ultimately discredited and shut down. Monet stayed on after it was restructured into the European branch of Professor X's mutant outreach organization, the X-Corporation. She battled Weapon XII in the Channel Tunnel, and aided the X-Men and the Juggernaut against Black Tom Cassidy. Meanwhile, Penance separated from the St. Croix family under unrevealed circumstances, and was later preyed upon by Fuyumi Fujikawa's mutant growth hormone (MGH) drug ring, developing a voice and taking the name Hollow.

Following the X-Corporation's closure in the aftermath of M-Day, M joined the staff of X-Factor Investigations, a mutant detective agency run by former X-Corps and X-Corporation teammate Jamie Madrox. When X-Factor discovered the Scarlet Witch's part in M-Day, it caused tension between them and the X-Men, who had hidden the truth. M registered her powers with the government under the Superhuman Registration Act, although X-Factor later publicly denounced the Act. She then had a fling with one of Jamie's duplicates, which ended poorly when she discovered that the real Jamie was involved with fellow teammate Siryn. In France, M and Siryn stopped a crowd from burning down a house full of ex-mutants, but were arrested, and the crowd returned later to torch the home. When M learned this, she brutally attacked one of the men, crucifying him, and battled the French police. Her father stepped in later and greased some palms to avoid an international incident. Alongside X-Factor, M battled the terrorist group the X-Cell, rescued Rictor from the isolationist Josef Huber, and joined the other X-teams in fighting the Marauders to save the first mutant baby born since M-Day. When Arcade destroyed New York's Middle East Side, the former "Mutant Town" where X-Factor was based, ONE (Office of National Emergency) agent Val Cooper attempted to press-gang the team into government service, and they responded by going underground. Relocating to Detroit, they renamed themselves XF Investigations and continued their work, maintaining a much lower profile. When the Skrulls invaded Earth, M and X-Factor aided She-Hulk in battling Nogar, a religious "Talisman" who boosted Skrull troops' morale. Despite her arrogant attitude, M remains a steadfast defender of mutant rights, and a dedicated member of XF Investigations

Art by Aaron Lopresti

HEIGHT: (Twins, when last seen) 4'2" each; (Monet) 5'7"; (all, as Penance) 5'5"
WEIGHT: (Twins, when last seen) 60 lbs each; (Monet) 125 lbs; (all, as Penance) Unrevealed
EYES: (All) Brown; (all, as Penance) Blue, no visible irises or pupils
HAIR: (All) Black; (all, as Penance) Red

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Monet has superhuman speed, intelligence and strength (Class 10), telepathy, flight, nigh-invulnerability, enhanced night vision, heightened hearing, accelerated healing, and the ability to perceive mutants' auras. She can analyze and understand most devices instantly, is highly educated and a formidable hand-to-hand combatant. Monet speaks fluent English and French, as do Nicole and (presumably) Claudette.

Nicole and Claudette can combine with each other and their siblings into individual beings with magnified abilities. When the twins merge, they seem able to choose the form they take and can influence its behavior; however, combining with others creates independent beings. When they combined to form a duplicate of Monet, they possessed all of her powers. When they combined with Emplate to form M-Plate, they possessed psionic powers and energy blasts, and could distort reality, travel interdimensionally and create and manipulate force fields. Claudette is autistic, and spends much of her time in an unresponsive fugue state; when the twins merge, the combinant entity occasionally lapses into a fugue as well. In addition, Claudette can open dimensional portals using a piece of chalk, although it is unrevealed whether this is a mutant or mystical ability. Nicole and Claudette have not been seen in years, and no doubt their control over their powers has grown as they approach puberty.

When trapped in the Penance form, none of the sisters could access their mutant powers, think clearly or speak. However, they possessed Penance's super-dense diamond-hard body, with razor-sharp fingers, skin and hair, clawed hands and feet, and limited psi-shields (presumably mystical in nature). The Penance form can also contract and relax its skin to a limited degree, "softening" it somewhat or rendering it so tight that it begins to atrophy the muscles underneath.

Art by Chris Bachalo, Art Adams & Steve Pugh

STRONG GUY

REAL NAME: Guido Carosella
ALIASES: Captain Capitalism
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Private investigator; former tour manager, bodyguard, arena fighter, government agent
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Rhinebeck, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Unidentified parents (deceased), Anthony (cousin), Louis (uncle), Lois (aunt)
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-Factor Investigations; formerly X-Factor, the Arena
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts in drama from NYU
FIRST APPEARANCE: (Guido) New Mutants #29 (1985); (Strong Guy) X-Factor #72 (1991)

HISTORY: Guido Carosella was the class clown, using this to overcome his own insecurity as a self-confessed nerd and social outcast. Developing a crush on fellow student Sheila McCann, the teenaged Guido tried to speak to her, but her boyfriend punched him, and the boyfriend's buddies ganged up on Guido when he retaliated. The beating triggered Guido's mutant powers, causing his right arm to swell. In pain and confusion, Guido stumbled in front of a school bus, absorbing further energy when it struck him, expanding his physique even more. As Guido collapsed in agony, Charlie Ronalds, whose parents had been killed by a mutant, tried to smash Guido's skull with a rock; but Guido spasmed, striking Charlie and permanently crippling him. Unaware of the need to discharge his excess energy quickly, Guido was permanently disfigured, his upper body disproportionately super-sized and in constant pain. Recovering, Guido became close to candy-striper Mary Bradley, but lost touch with her after being transferred to another hospital. After his parents were killed by a falling satellite, Guido became wealthy from the settlement, moving in with his aunt and uncle until he reached the age of majority.

When bad investments left him tight for cash, Guido worked as a bodyguard to mutant rock star and interstellar thief Lila Cheney. During this period he began meeting members of the X-Men, including Alison Blaire (Dazzler), then one of Lila's session singers; later finding Alison amnesiac near Lila's Malibu home after she had passed through the Siege Perilous, Guido took her in while she recovered. Soon after, he accompanied Lila to the X-Man's Westchester Mansion, but after she departed with some X-Men for Shi'ar space to rescue the team's founder, Professor Xavier, Guido fell under the Shadow King's telepathic sway. Drawn to Muir Island, Scotland, Guido joined a gladiatorial arena alongside other pawns including Siryn (Theresa Cassidy), Polaris (Lorna Dane) and Jamie Madrox (Multiple Man), though the X-Men eventually freed them all. Immediately after the battle, Guido, Polaris and Madrox were recruited by federal official Val Cooper to form part of the new government-run X-Factor; they were soon joined by Havok (Alex Summers), Quicksilver (Pietro Maximoff) and Wolfsbane (Rahne Sinclair). At the team press launch, Guido was pressed to choose a code name, and on the spur of the moment picked Strong Guy.

The fledgling team soon battled Mr. Sinister and his Nasty Boys. One of them, Slab, took hostages at the Washington Monument and challenged Guido; during the battle Slab dodged a punch, and Guido accidentally demolished the Monument. Humiliated and briefly arrested, Guido considered quitting X-Factor, but soon redeemed himself, defeating Slab during their rematch and helping X-Factor expose Sinister's plan to deliberately discredit them. X-Factor next stopped the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants from recruiting Genoshan refugees the X-Patriots, with Guido growing particularly close to one, Jo Beth, aka Pirouette, while guarding her. Following an assassination attempt on X-Men founder Professor Xavier, X-Factor joined several other X-teams to hunt the shooter, Stryfe (Cable's clone). Subsequently defending the X-Patriots from the mercenary Random, X-Factor then escorted them home to Genosha, where Guido bid farewell to Jo Beth. The team learned of the lethal Legacy virus' spread and battled Genoshan Magistrates trying to kill an infected mutant. After returning to the USA, X-Factor fought Charon (Charlie Ronalds), who had sold his soul to the demonic Cloot (aka Satannish) to seek revenge on Guido and all mutants; the battle ended when Cloot decided Charon had broken their bargain and claimed him. Lila Cheney later tried to rehire Guido as her bodyguard, but feeling that his friends needed him, Guido declined. While X-Factor was trying to apprehend the new-age mutant healer and cultist Haven (Radha Dastoor), Guido learned his closest friend Madrox was dying of the Legacy virus, only minutes before he died. Unaware that one of the self-replicating Jamie's bodies had survived (though it remains uncertain whether the original Madrox or a duplicate had passed away), Guido was hit hard by his friend's seeming demise; following Jamie's funeral, Guido visited his family in Rhinebeck, accompanied by Wolfsbane. He received a warm welcome from most of the residents as one of the town's favored sons, complete with his own fan club, and unexpectedly encountered his old crush Mary Bradley (now Vanderbilt); however, Guido's newly lifted spirits came crashing down when Mary shamefacedly admitted she considered him a freak after he confessed he still loved her. Departing in haste, he raced with the rest of the team to Hawaii to assist Havok and Polaris, who had been attacked by the Nasty Boys and the psychic entity Malice.

Attending one of Lila's concerts, Guido had a chance encounter with the Blob at Dulles International; during the ensuing battle Guido

Art by Jeff Matsuda with Dennis Calero (inset)

absorbed large amounts of kinetic energy from the Blob's punches, from a high fall, and finally from catching a jumbo jet. Overloading, Guido suffered a minor heart attack, though he put the pain down to indigestion, and still captured the Blob before his teammates arrived. X-Factor was sent to Tel Aviv to protect Professor Xavier's son, David Haller, from mutant shape-shifter Mystique, only to have him teleport them to Madripoor, where Guido was taken prisoner by Jornik, an alien seeking Lila Cheney who recognized Guido from his time working for her. Lila freed him, but X-Factor was attacked by the K'lanti, seeking to recover a Harmonium Lila stole. Lila teleported herself, Polaris and Guido to Cygnus Prime to retrieve the Harmonium, where Guido absorbed large quantities of kinetic energy fighting a robotic guardian before they returned to Earth with the device. The departing K'lanti left behind a bomb, and Guido interposed himself between it and Lila, taking the blast head on. Unable to handle the excess energy, Guido had a heart attack and collapsed. Comatose, he was admitted to the Hidalgo Research Institute in Washington, suspended in amniotic fluid to give his heart muscles a chance to heal away from external pressures.

He awoke months later to learn his friend Madrox was alive but a fugitive, as was Havok, now leading an outlaw mutant Brotherhood; his heart still dangerously weak. Guido was placed into custody in case the Brotherhood tried to recruit him, but Madrox freed him. As government troops closed in, Guido tried to use his strength, but began experiencing chest pains again, rescued by Polaris. Guido was given a heart implant by mutant inventor Forge that directed kinetic energy to the organ, ensuring it grew in proportion with his other muscles, thus preventing further health problems. Guido vacationed for a while with Lila, who convinced him to go on a new intergalactic tour, during which both the Jorken and Kront races tried to use Guido as a hostage to force her to use her teleportation powers as a weapon in a territorial war over a small moon. Unfortunately for both incompetent species, they kidnapped the wrong person. After Guido tricked them into destroying the disputed moon, they allied intending to take revenge on both Guido and Lila. Later informed of a radio signal mentioning an impending alien invasion of Earth, unaware it was Orson Welles' 1930s broadcast passing out into deep space, Guido returned home. Allied with the Beast (Hank McCoy) and old friends Madrox and Wolfsbane to find the nonexistent invasion, Guido instead stumbled upon Melvin J. Weals' plan to open an underworld portal using the Hell Toupee and sacrifice a former romantic interest to demons: Guido ultimately donned the flaming wig and ordered the demons back to the pit empty-handed, before departing for space once more.

Returning to Earth after an undisclosed falling out with Lila, Guido sought a new focus, becoming a fighter in Masato Koga's underground Arena. He ended up indentured to Koga until the X-Men's Storm (Ororo Munroe), Japanese adventurer Yukio and former Morlock leader Callisto helped him win freedom for all of the fighters. Taking up residence in New York's Mutant Town district, Guido worked for Madrox's XXX Investigations, soon joined by Wolfsbane; at Guido's suggestion, they renamed the agency X-Factor Investigations. After "M-Day," when a mad Scarlet Witch depowered most of the world's mutants, Guido was one of the few who retained his. An expanded X-Factor, with new members M (Monet St. Croix), Siryn, Layla Miller and the depowered Rictor (Julio Richter), investigated M-Day's cause while defending mutants, both powered and depowered, from enemies who sought to exploit the situation. Aware of a future where X-Factor reversed M-Day, leading to mutants brutally dominating the world, the temporal anomaly Mr. Tryp and his Singularity Investigations worked against them; Tryp brainwashed Guido and had him murder Professor Henry Buchanan. After Singularity was destroyed, Guido was deprogrammed, though he became guilt-ridden upon learning he had committed murder, however, when he confessed to Buchanan's widow, she forgave him, not wishing Singularity to claim another victim.

When X-Factor defended Xavier's school against an attacking Hulk (Bruce Banner), Guido suffered another minor heart attack after absorbing too much energy fighting him. He briefly considered leaving X-Factor when Val Cooper offered to make him the "sheriff" of Mutant Town, but she withdrew the offer as the area's falling population rendered the post moot. Soon afterwards the assassin Arcade burned down Mutant Town, and X-Factor relocated to Detroit to avoid being drafted into government service by Cooper, though she soon tracked them down. Siryn,

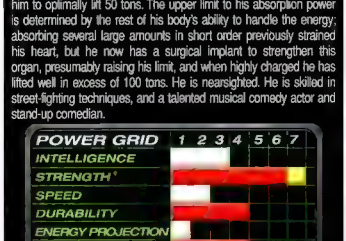
Art by Jan Duursema

pregnant by Madrox, gave birth, but her son proved to be an unusual kind of duplicate which Jamie accidentally absorbed; an enraged Siryn drove Madrox away. After he had been missing for a month, Rictor located a Madrox duplicate, John Maddox, in New England. Hoping he might provide information on Madrox's whereabouts, Guido and Rictor visited him, but were attacked by Shatterstar (Gavedra-Seven), Rictor's former X-Force teammate, now mind-controlled by Cortex, a Jamie Madrox from 80 years in the future of Earth-1191, an agent of Mr. Tryp. When Cortex's control was disrupted and this freed Shatterstar, he passionately kissed Rictor. Guido was shocked, partly because he had not suspected Rictor's bisexuality, but also because the proudly open-minded Guido found himself having difficulty accepting this revelation. The trio swiftly returned to Detroit to aid the rest of X-Factor in their battle with Cortex.

Art by Chris Batista & Andy Smith

HEIGHT: 7'
WEIGHT: 750 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: White

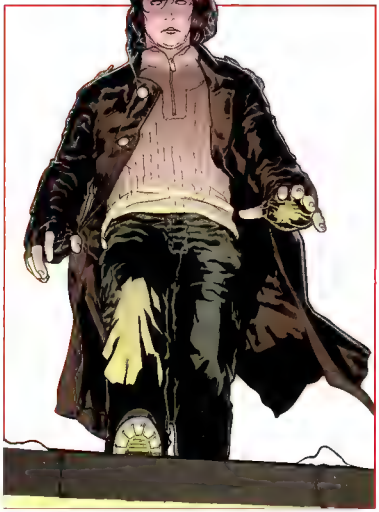
ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Guido absorbs kinetic energy on impact, using it to increase his mass and strength; he must discharge excess energy within 90 seconds or risk permanent physical deformation. Thanks to the energy he absorbed and did not quickly discharge when he discovered his powers, Guido's baseline strength enables him to optimally lift 50 tons. The upper limit to his absorption power is determined by the rest of his body's ability to handle the energy; absorbing several large amounts in short order previously strained his heart, but he now has a surgical implant to strengthen this organ, presumably raising his limit, and when highly charged he has lifted well in excess of 100 tons. He is nearsighted. He is skilled in street-fighting techniques, and a talented musical comedy actor and stand-up comedian.



RICTOR

REAL NAME: Julio Esteban "Ric" Richter
ALIASES: Formerly Mutate #527, Unit 2347
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Private detective; former freedom fighter
CITIZENSHIP: Mexico
PLACE OF BIRTH: Guadalajara, Mexico
KNOWN RELATIVES: Louis Alejandro Garabello Richter (father, deceased), unidentified mother (presumably deceased), unidentified stepmother, Gonzalo Richter (uncle), Omar Domingo, Ramon (cousins), numerous unidentified brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-Factor Investigations; formerly X-Corporation, X-Force, Weapon: PRIME, New Mutants, X-Terminators, X-Factor (trainee)
EDUCATION: Briefly attended boarding school
FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Factor #17 (1987)

HISTORY: Julio Richter grew up in a Mexican gun-smuggling family but remained oblivious to his family's crimes until he and his father Louis made a business trip to Costa Rica, where they were mistakenly imprisoned by corrupt police employed by local crime boss Señor Esteban, one of Louis' clients. An apologetic Esteban freed them days later and bought a large shipment of guns from Louis while young Julio watched. Frightened and disillusioned, Julio started to withdraw from his family, retreating into books and re-imagining his father as one of the heroic characters he liked to read about. Louis later agreed to sell guns to Stryfe, a powerful mutant from Earth-4935's 39th century; but when Stryfe failed to show, Louis panicked and sold the guns cheaply to Hydra so the police could not catch him with the merchandise. When Stryfe arrived weeks later to collect, he was furious and attacked Louis and his partners with his telekinetic powers; young Julio watched as Stryfe deflected one of Louis' bullets back at him, killing Julio's father.



When his mutant seismic powers manifested, Julio accidentally destroyed three city blocks, but was initially unaware he had done it. He ran away shortly afterward, trying to escape his family's criminal way of life. Armored anti-mutant organization the Right kidnapped him in California, informing Julio of his mutant nature and explaining how his earthquake powers had caused the earlier destruction. Dubbing him Rictor, they tortured him to try to force him to destroy San Francisco, publicly claiming he was a mutant terrorist allied with the mutant outlaw X-Terminators. The real X-Terminators, who then operated under human cover identities as supposed mutant hunters X-Factor, sought to prove their innocence by thwarting the earthquake scheme; they soon discovered Rictor was an innocent victim, freed him from the Right and saved the city. Rictor joined X-Factor's young trainees, learning how to use his powers safely. When the Right kidnapped the students, Rictor contemplated suicide rather than face Right leader Cameron Hodge, but the kids soon escaped with X-Factor's aid.

With X-Factor, Rictor helped battle Infectia and her Anti-Bodies, the alien Xartans ("Carbon-Copy Men"), and Apocalypse (En Sabah Nur)'s Alliance of Evil. Eventually, X-Factor sent their students away to boarding school, but they soon reunited to battle demons as a new team of X-Terminators. Most of them later joined the New Mutants, a team of young mutants in training established by the X-Men, when the New Mutants moved into X-Factor's sentient spacecraft headquarters, Ship. As a New Mutant, Rictor battled Mystique's Freedom Force, helped thwart Hela's scheme to slay Asgardian ruler Odin, and fought the Mindless Ones. Rictor's early romantic interest in longtime teammate Boom-Boom (Tabitha Smith) waned as he bonded with and became interested in new teammate Wolfsbane (Rahne Sinclair) instead, so Boom-Boom started vying for Rictor's attention. When Rahne's foster mother, Moira MacTaggert, tried to take her back to Scotland, Rictor pretended to destroy Moira's helicopter to keep Wolfsbane there.

When the New Mutants found a new mentor in Cable (Nathan Summers, from whom Stryfe had been cloned), Rictor mistakenly recognized him as his father's murderer, but initially kept this belief secret. Rictor resented Cable's reorganization of the team, and after a difficult training session, a furious Rictor fled into the Morlock tunnels where he stumbled across Sabretooth fighting Caliban; Sabretooth slashed Rictor's stomach, but Rictor collapsed the tunnel on them both. After Cable and the New Mutants dug him out, Rictor agreed to stay with the team and began to respect Cable. Later battling Earth-811's time-traveling Ahab, Rictor accidentally killed one of Ahab's Hounds (mutants coerced into Ahab's service), and he resolved to be more careful with his powers. Rictor and Wolfsbane's relationship slowly progressed, but many of the team were abducted to Genosha, a country which enslaved mutants; Rictor's teammate, the techno-organic Warlock, sacrificed himself to free Rictor and Boom-Boom, and Wolfsbane was turned into a brainwashed mutate slave. Learning that the attack was masterminded by Cameron Hodge, now a mechanical monstrosity, the New Mutants joined the similarly targeted X-Men and X-Factor in fighting back, and Rictor collapsed an entire building on Hodge. Wolfsbane, bonded by the mutate process to Havok (Alex Summers), chose to remain in Genosha, and Rictor later left the New Mutants (soon renamed X-Force) to go to Genosha to be with her, but was unable to locate her before she returned to the USA with Havok.

Months later, an embittered Rictor, wanting revenge on Cable, joined Weapon: PRIME (PRototype Induced Mutation Echelon), a team working with intelligence agency SHIELD to bring Cable down. They attacked X-Force's headquarters, and Rictor briefly battled Boom-Boom and Cannonball, careful not to hurt them, until the base self-destructed. Learning Cable had abandoned the team, Rictor deserted Weapon. PRIME and SHIELD to join X-Force. When Stryfe tried to assassinate X-Men mentor Professor Charles Xavier, the X-Men — unaware of the clonal relationship — believed Cable was the perpetrator, and assumed

Art by Ryan Sook

X-Force supported him. A new government-backed X-Factor team (including Havok & Wolfsbane) and the X-Men captured X-Force, holding them at Xavier's Mansion until the crisis ended. While Rictor remained attracted to Wolfsbane, she claimed to have lost interest, and opted to stay with X-Factor, mostly due to her bond with Havok.

Art by Tony Daniel

Rictor accompanied X-Force to Graymalkin, Cable's orbiting space station, where he battled SHIELD forces and War Machine (Jim Rhodes), then participated in missions against the X-Ternals and the Friends of Humanity. Rictor was uncomfortable when Cable rejoined the team, but he still helped save "Professor" (Ship's consciousness) from the crashed Graymalkin's remains, and battled the Mutant Liberation Front. Rictor eventually learned that Stryfe, not Cable, had killed his father. Julio tried renewing his relationship with Tabitha (who had started dating Cannonball) before becoming involved with his newer teammate Shatterstar (Gaveedra-Seven), a renegade Mojoverse warrior, and battling the Upstarts alongside the New Warriors. Hearing that his uncle Gonzalo and cousin Omar had been hospitalized following a gunfight, Rictor went home, accompanied by Cable and Domino (Neena Thurman). While Rictor talked with his stepmother, his relatives opened fire on Cable, mistaking him for Stryfe. Rictor broke up the fight and left his family behind, determined to make something better out of his life.

Badly hurt battling Humanity's Last Stand's robot Nimrod, Rictor recovered in time to oppose the invading Phalanx alongside X-Force, X-Factor and British team Excalibur. After Ship's consciousness, now called Prosh, took X-Force's headquarters into space, the team relocated to Arcade's abandoned Murderworld, battling ex-teammate Feral (Maria Callasantos) and later the mad Reignfire. When their new headquarters was destroyed, the team moved back to the X-Men's abandoned mansion. Cable informed the group he would be working with them more closely via frequent telepathic contact, but Rictor found this intrusive and quit; letting his friends know he would return if needed. Rictor headed home to spend time with his family, coming to terms with Cable at the airport. Rictor returned to help Shatterstar find the truth of his origins, a mission that led the team to battle Gog and Magog and into the Mojoverse. Rictor briefly stayed on with X-Force, who helped Nathaniel Richards secure Dr. Doom (Victor von Doom)'s equipment in Latveria. A temporal wave sent Rictor and part of the team back in time where, slightly intangible due to their time travel, they battled Baron Strucker before returning to the future. Rictor also helped the team rescue the Valkyrior in Asgard from Malekith the Dark-Elf and a group of trolls, tracked down teammate Warpath's lover Risque when Warpath was missing, and was briefly captured by the anti-mutant government program Operation: Zero Tolerance.

When Cable suggested that X-Force go underground and change their names, Rictor returned to Mexico to work on permanently ending his family's criminal dealings, taking Shatterstar with him. Investigating a report that his cousin Ramon was doing a drug-run in Oaxaca, Rictor was trapped by the villain Arcade, who kept him in a room filled with vials of nitroglycerin to negate Rictor's powers. Arcade then threatened Rictor's life unless Shatterstar battled Domino, after the fight ended. Rictor was released. Rictor and Shatterstar were briefly sidetracked into aiding the mutant Hanransha against Martin Henry Strong, but Rictor left Shatterstar and joined the X-Corporation in Paris alongside several of his old teammates, aiding a mutants' rights group and battling Weapon XII before leaving.

Art by Bret Blevins

Depowered on "M-Day," an event caused by the Scarlet Witch, Rictor mourned his lost connection to Earth and contemplated suicide but Jamie Madrox (aka Multiple Man) talked him out of it and offered him a place with Madrox's detective agency, X-Factor Investigations. Rictor initially declined, despite Rahne's presence in the group, but the mysterious Layla Miller subtly manipulated him into joining. X-Factor investigated M-Day, soon finding the X-Men had concealed its true source, and a depowered Quicksilver freely confessed his accidental role in causing it, having pushed his sister Scarlet Witch to use her reality-warping powers. By now, Quicksilver had gained new powers via risky Terrigen Mist mutations and was trying to make up for his M-Day mistake by offering to re-power other mutants in similar fashion. He took a special interest in Rictor, declaring himself Julio's protector and tempting him with talk of re-powering him. Rictor permitted Pietro to restore his abilities, but ultimately turned against Quicksilver, apparently burning out his regained abilities by stripping Pietro of his dangerous Terrigen powers; however, when Rictor subsequently fought the Isolationist, who simultaneously possessed every active mutant's powers, Julio proved inexplicably immune to his foe's duplicated abilities. Despairing at first over the loss of his powers again, Rictor soon recovered, thanks in part to he and a sympathetic Rahne becoming lovers.

Following the birth of the first mutant child since M-Day, numerous groups raced to claim her. Because scanners no longer registered him as a mutant, Rictor was asked to infiltrate the anti-mutant Purifiers as "Joaquin Murrieta," tricking a Purifier, Jim Taylor, into recruiting him. He discovered that the Purifiers did not have the baby, but his cover was blown when the New X-Men recognized him during a battle between the Reavers and the Purifiers. Rictor calmed the fears of the New X-Men's Pixie enough for her to teleport him and the rest of the team to safety. Discredited for enlisting Rictor, Taylor was expelled from the Purifiers and sought revenge, hiring Arcade. Rahne, fearing she might one day lose control and slay some of her friends, quit X-Factor to join the new black ops X-Force, leaving Rictor nothing more than a note explaining her actions. A distraught Rictor walked off the team and straight into Arcade and Taylor's trap, but was rescued by his teammate Siryn. Rejoining X-Factor, Rictor relocated with them to their new base in Detroit.

HEIGHT: 5'9" EYES: Brown
WEIGHT: 145 lbs. HAIR: Brown

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Rictor is a capable unarmed combatant and has a natural, limited capacity for resistance to psychic intrusion in his mind (he may still retain this ability as it seemed unrelated to his mutant powers). Rictor has also received combat and military training from Cable and the original X-Factor. He is proficient with firearms, including automatic weapons, a skill picked up in childhood. Trilingual, he is fluent in English, Spanish and Cadre Alliance, Shatterstar's native language from Mojoworld. Formerly, Rictor could generate vibrational waves. He could focus these waves on anything he touched, or on any target at which he directed the waves. The target could be shattered or merely vibrated, and the effects could be subtle or catastrophic, depending on Rictor's intent. Rictor generally focused his power through his hands or fingers. Rictor had a special affinity for the Earth, a special awareness of and connection to the planet.

POWER GRID (1 2 3 4 5 6 7)

- INTELLIGENCE
- STRENGTH
- SPEED
- DURABILITY
- ENERGY PROJECTION
- FIGHTING SKILLS

*YELLOW BAR INDICATES PRE-DEPOWERING LEVEL

LONGSHOT

REAL NAME: Unrevealed
ALIASES: "Jumping Jack," "the Lucky One"
IDENTITY: No dual identity in the Wildways, the general populace of Earth does not know Longshot is an extradimensional being
OCCUPATION: Adventurer; former movie stuntman, rebel leader, slave
CITIZENSHIP: None on Earth, renegade slave with a criminal record in the Wildways
PLACE OF BIRTH: The Wildways
KNOWN RELATIVES: Alison Blaire (Dazzler, wife, separated), Lois London (sister-in-law), possible relative of Benjamin Russell or Shatterstar; former guardian of the X-Babies
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-Factor Investigations; formerly Exiles, the Hand (Earth-1720), Imperial Guard (Reality-522), X-Men, Wildways rebel leader
EDUCATION: Unrevealed, apparently no conventional education
FIRST APPEARANCE: Longshot #1 (1985)

HISTORY: In an extradimensional world called the Wildways (aka Mojoworld) ruled by invertebrate beings known as the Spineless Ones, the scientist Arize created a race of vertebrate slaves through genetic engineering. Arize secretly designed their genetic codes so that his intelligent humanoids would have a strong sense of self. For some, like the one to be known as Longshot and his bestial friend, Quark, he genetically engineered them to have superhuman abilities.

Grown in machines to become a warrior slave for the Spineless One named Mojo, "Longshot" became conscious as an adult and immediately asserted his independence. Mojo forced "Longshot" to serve as a stuntman in his dangerous movies. Locating Arize, "Longshot" discovered his own origin and was encouraged to lead a slave rebellion. He became a legendary hero of his people, but Mojo captured him. His memory erased, "Longshot" escaped through a portal to Earth where he earned his name due to his superhuman luck. While there, he battled Gog and Magog (rebel hunters from the Mojoverse), befriended stuntwoman "Ricochet Rita" Wayword, and finally stopped Mojo and his sorceress Spiral (a twisted future version of Rita) from enslaving the Earth. Longshot, with Quark and Rita, pursued Mojo back into his dimension to continue the revolt.

Longshot's rebellion failed. Televising the X-Men's exploits via cybernetic eyes implanted into the mutant Psylocke, Mojo returned the amnesiac Longshot to Earth for a ratings boost. He transformed the heroes into children, airing their clash with Spiral and the New Mutants. Defeated, Mojo retreated, while Longshot joined the X-Men. With Storm (Ororo Munroe) as leader of the X-Men, winsome Longshot faced the Juggernaut (Cain Marko) in Scotland and the Marauders in San Francisco, while sharing a romance with teammate Dazzler (Alison Blaire). While battling the Adversary in Dallas, Longshot (demonstrating exceptional loyalty to the team) and the rest of the X-Men gave their life forces to banish the evil Adversary. In gratitude, Omniversal Guardian Roma restored their lives (though the world still believed they had died), and rendered them invisible to electronic detection.

The X-Men settled in the Australian Outback, evicting the cyborg thieves the Reavers from their Outback base. Longshot used his psychometry to aid in returning the Reavers' stolen objects, teleporting via the mysterious Aborigine Gateway. In Denver, Longshot fought Harry Palmer and his band of Brood infected mutants, and in New York, faced a massive demonic invasion led by S'ym, N'astirh, the Goblin Queen (Jean Grey's clone Madelyne Pryor), and Mr. Sinister. Though spiritually tainted during the invasion, Longshot, with the X-Men and X-Factor, emerged victorious. After helping prevent an alien conquest of Earth and battling the merger of Nimrod and the Master Mold Sentinel, Longshot felt incomplete from his amnesia, and appeared to mysteriously fade away in a mystical dream state shared with Storm. Longshot ended up back on Mojoworld.

Meanwhile, Dazzler had entered the Siege Perilous, and returned as an amnesiac to the Malibu, California home of Lila Cheney's bodyguard, Guido Carosella. Longshot returned to Earth there, with Spiral in pursuit, but Dazzler did not remember her former lover. Lila teleported Dazzler and Longshot to safety, but was redirected to Mojoworld by Mojo's assistant, Major Domo. There, Longshot spent several weeks leading an insurrection against Mojo, but ultimately failed. Returning to Earth via Mojo's secret spy, Meek, Dazzler traveled again to Mojoworld with the X-Men, who were mind-wiped and forced to act out in a skewed "Wizard of Oz" movie with Longshot, while Mojo's ratings soared. While Mojo forced X-Men to battle X-Men, Professor X liberated the X-Men's minds. Longshot stormed Mojo's palace and appeared to slay the spineless tyrant with a sword; Mojo vanished. As rule of Mojoworld was passed to Mojo II: the Sequel, Professor X detected Dazzler was pregnant with Longshot's child. Longshot suggested the name "Shatterstar." Longshot and Dazzler remained on Mojoworld where they were married. Through unrevealed circumstances, Dazzler apparently lost the baby, possibly due to a miscarriage. The people of the Wildways treated Longshot and Dazzler like royalty, many hoping they would assume a leadership role. Since the new culture rejected remnants of Mojo I's regime, the juvenile X-Men he created, the "X-Babies," were hunted down. Dazzler rescued the children, and she and Longshot temporarily became their guardians.

Art by Art Adams

In time, Mojo II proved to be a despot as well, oppressing those he deemed imperfect compared to himself. Longshot, Dazzler, Quark, and tactical expert, Kragar, led a new rebellion. The imprisoned Major Domo, formerly Mojo I's primary servant, suggested a public execution to help Mojo II's ratings; Mojo II chose to execute Domo. Rescued by Longshot, Major Domo joined the rebellion, and lost his left arm in battle. The rebels were secretly betrayed by a warrior named Brahams, who framed Domo as the traitor. Their hideout raided by Mojo II, the rebels were nearly defeated until Longshot received unexpected assistance defeating Mojo II from Spiral, who despised Mojo II's treatment of "freaks" like herself and Major Domo, who grew to respect the rebellion.

After a time of peace, the original Mojo returned to power, no longer relying on TV ratings for power, but real war. When Mojo captured Cable and Shatterstar, Longshot teamed with X-Force and Spiral. Spiral transported Longshot to another time where he assisted transferring the soul of the slain Shatterstar into the body of a comatose mutant, Benjamin Russell, while X-Force defeated Mojo. Later, Longshot was swallowed by a creature called the Thingee. Longshot "died" and approached the doorway to Heaven, but was denied entrance. Rather, he was transported to Kansas on Earth in full health. Befriending the diminutive Nutt the elf, a girl named Betty Fillmore (who was traumatized by the Thingee), and a band of eccentric sanitarium patients, Longshot again faced the horrible Thingee while being pursued by the police who suspected Longshot of the Thingee's atrocities. Longshot healed Betty, and by the power of the group's hopes, prayers, and love, reverted the monster into its original state, the Beautiful Thingee. Longshot and his friends set out for New York City but eventually returned home. When Mojo tried to replace his X-Babies with similar baby versions of dangerous super-criminals, he lost control of his new creations, and "babies" from an Age of Apocalypse production devastated the entire Mojoverse. Longshot was recaptured by Mojo, but Dazzler believed he was killed, and she returned to Earth, devastated.

Meanwhile, caught in the wake of the Scarlet Witch's altering of Earth-616 into Reality-58163 ("House of M"), the Exiles encountered body-snatching, reality-altering Proteus who took possession of Mimic's body and discovered other realities to visit in order to find a perfect host body. Desperate to overcome Proteus' powers, Heather Hudson granted Mojo viewing access to the multiverse in exchange for Longshot's freedom as long as Mojo only watched and did not interfere. Mojo released Longshot with his memory wiped clean, leaving only his combat training and probability manipulation powers intact. Teleported to Earth-15731 (a divergent "New Universe"/Earth-148611), Longshot instinctively joined the battle with Proteus. Longshot drove Proteus away, but not before Proteus burned out Mimic's body. The Exiles pursued Proteus across various realities including Earth-6375 (a divergent "2099 AD" reality created by the Exiles' interaction), and Earth-712, home of the Squadron Supreme. When Proteus possessed Morph's body on Counter-Earth, he had found the perfect host due to Morph's transmutable physiology. The Exiles stopped Proteus and reprogrammed his mind to make him believe that he was actually Morph. With his intended mission complete, Longshot remained with the Exiles and continued to fix broken realities. In one of his last adventures with the Exiles, on Earth-1720, Longshot appeared to betray the team by joining the Hand and attacking Blink. Mind controlled by the Madame Hydra (Sue Storm) of that universe, Longshot eventually got lucky and regained control of his mind before the Exiles were victorious.

Later, the Exiles teamed with Earth-616's British Excalibur to defend Otherworld from a resurrected Jim Jaspers and his army of Furies. Longshot was reunited with his long lost lover, Dazzler. However, discovering Longshot had no memories of her, in a moment of anguish Dazzler released a burst of light that reflected throughout the Panoptichron (Crystal Palace) blinding everyone including Longshot. This blinding light somehow, most likely due to the composition of the walls within the Panoptichron, slowly returned Longshot's memories of Dazzler. Longshot remained on Earth-616 and joined Excalibur to be with his wife.

Unfortunately Longshot's full memory failed to return. Unable to recreate the passion they once had for each other, the two agreed to separate. Noticing an unfamiliar picture of himself in a newspaper, Longshot investigated and, with the help of X-Factor Investigations, discovered it was a Skrull impersonating him. Afterward, he assisted X-Factor Investigations in rescuing Darwin, a mutant with the power to evolve in response to immediate threats, captured by Dr. Maru for the Karma Project to create super-soldiers. With the recent departures of team veterans Layla Miller and Rahne Sinclair, Longshot and Darwin agreed to join X-Factor Investigations.

HAND COSTUME

Art by Paul Pelletier

HEIGHT: 6'2" **EYES:** Blue
WEIGHT: 80 lbs. **HAIR:** Blond

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Longshot can subconsciously affect probability fields through psionic means in order to give himself "good luck" when his motives are pure. However, by creating "good luck" for himself, Longshot creates an equal and opposite effect elsewhere. This "bad luck" could affect someone else, or could conceivably even affect Longshot at some point. It operates even when Longshot does not consciously will it to do so. He can extend this probability field to others within close proximity, at least 4' away. Through touch, he can telepathically "read" recent memories of a person, and has psychometry, the ability to detect emotional "psychic imprints" left, or to be left, on objects. The stronger the person's emotions when handling the object, the stronger the psychic imprint left. This "psychic touch" can somehow access information from the future, allowing Longshot to read the thoughts of a person who will eventually handle an object, which Longshot is touching in the present. Longshot also psionically affects, involuntarily or subconsciously, people (particularly women, though men may also be affected) in his proximity, stimulating their brains' pleasure (dopamine-producing) centers such that the targets experience a "falling in love" euphoric sensation.

Longshot has leathery skin, two hearts, porous bird-like bones, and only three fingers and a thumb on each hand. His left eye glows with a bright light (the "Purifying Radiance") when employing one of his powers. On at least one occasion, Longshot used his energies to heal and transfer the soul ("uemeur") of a slain person into another body. Longshot's mind has been implanted with combat training equivalent to an experienced warrior who utilizes street fighting techniques and acrobatics. Longshot often carries a grappling hook, knives, daggers, and a number of lightweight high carbon steel throwing blades, which he stores in a bandolier, and can hurl with uncanny accuracy when employing his "good luck." He was invisible to electronic detection for a time, but this ability was apparently removed by Mojo.

SHATTERSTAR

REAL NAME: Gaveedra-Seven
ALIASES: Benjamin Russell, "Shatty-buns"
IDENTITY: Unknown to general public
OCCUPATION: Adventurer; former ultimate fighter
CITIZENSHIP: Mojoverse
PLACE OF BIRTH: Mojoverse
KNOWN RELATIVES: Windsong (wife)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Cable's X-Force, Cadre Alliance
EDUCATION: Trained in combat and technology in Mojoverse
FIRST APPEARANCE: New Mutants #99 (1991)

HISTORY: Though he is rumored to be an offspring or a genetic duplicate of the lucky X-Man Longshot, Shatterstar's true origins remain unknown. Shatterstar was born Gaveedra-Seven one hundred years in the future of the Mojoverse, an extradimensional world where the Spineless Ones, ruled by Mojo V, used humanoids as slaves and television stars because ratings in the Mojoverse meant power. Genetically engineered to be an ultimate fighter and trained in the finest skills of swordsmanship and war, Gaveedra-Seven was destined to slay Mojo V. Shatterstar fought for years in the arena, and was assigned a wife, Windsong, whom he had never met. Eventually, Shatterstar escaped the arena and lived in the shadows for two years, joining the humanoid rebels who opposed Mojo V. The rebels frequently fought Mojo V's Imperial Protectorate, regenerative biochemical constructs. Shatterstar's rebel force, the Cadre Alliance, decided to send Shatterstar to Earth to seek the X-Men's aid, as the famous Longshot had once done against the original Mojo a century before. Sent into the past, Shatterstar landed in the X-Men's Danger Room, where he and the New Mutants slew several pursuing members of the Imperial Protectorate. His technology to return to the future destroyed, Shatterstar made a deal with the New Mutants' leader, Cable (Nathan Summers): he would aid Cable's cause if Cable would someday help Shatterstar return home and win his rebels' war.

The New Mutants soon rechristened themselves X-Force. Shatterstar continually trained and challenged himself, constantly longing for battle and distancing himself from his team. He fought many foes with X-Force, including the Night Thrasher (Dwayne Taylor)-led New Warriors, who soon became allies when the teams allied to take down the energy-absorbing Piecemeal (Gilbert Benson), who had merged with the reality-warping Proteus (Kevin MacTaggert). The team fought Stryfe's Mutant Liberation Front, whose member the scythe-wielding Reaper (Pantu Harugeb) had his hand sliced off by Shatterstar twice, and against whom Shatterstar refused to back down against even when teammate Siryn (Theresa Cassidy) was held hostage, Black Tom Cassidy and Juggernaut (Cain Marko), whose face Shatterstar slashed; Toad (Mortimer Toynbee)'s Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, whose member Blob had his face savagely sliced by Shatterstar; and the underground-dwelling Morlocks, whose leader, the flesh-warping Masque, was seemingly slain by Shatterstar. Shatterstar also fought alongside Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett) against the young gang Vid-Kids. The team went through several changes when Cable seemingly abandoned them (though he later returned), leaving X-Force to face Weapon: PRIME (PRototype Induced Mutation Echelon), an international group seeking revenge on Cable for various reasons, on their own. X-Force later fought the long-lived X-Ternals, who held some of their members captive. X-Force clashed with the X-Men and their allies when X-Force was implicated in an assassination attempt on Charles Xavier; Wolverine took down Shatterstar by stabbing him through his abdomen, but the wound quickly healed. X-Force also fought the anti-mutant Friends of Humanity and the self-proclaimed heir of Magneto (Max Eisenhardt), Exodus (Bennet du Pans). Shatterstar continued acclimating to his new culture, even learning other languages by watching television, but focused mostly on improving his battle skills. He resisted the romantic advances of teammates Feral (Maria Callasantos), who lusted after him, and Siryn, who hit on him while she was drunk.

Shatterstar instead formed a lasting friendship and secret romance with his seismic-powered teammate, Rictor (Julio Richter), who understood what it was to be an outcast. Major Domo from Shatterstar's future hired the gamesman Arcade to test Shatterstar's skills, and Shatterstar had to fight the Imperial Protectorate to save human lives. Making Shatterstar think that Windsong was being held captive, Arcade forced him to fight the blood-electrifying mutant X-Treme (Adam-X) to save her. After X-Treme and Shatterstar teamed up to defeat Arcade, Shatterstar realized that Windsong's presence had been a ruse. X-Force soon

Art by Marco Santucci with Scott S. Miller & Rob Liefeld (insets)

teamed up with the New Warriors to oppose the Upstarts and their leader Gamesmaster, a telepathic mutant. Shatterstar and Domino (Neena Thurman) helped expose the government's plan to rebuild Earth-811's advanced mutant-hunting Sentinel, Nimrod, then fought the techno-organic Phalanx. When the computer-intelligence Prosh used much of X-Force's technology to incorporate a body for himself to launch into space, Shatterstar impressed his teammates with his technological know-how. X-Force changed headquarters to Arcade's former Murderworld base and, after battles with Feral and Reignfire, Arcade destroyed their base and X-Force moved into the X-Mansion. When Cable made changes to the team that Rictor disagreed with, Rictor quit the group, causing Shatterstar much anguish. Shatterstar next fought Genoshan Magistrates alongside Cable and Domino. His ribs were broken in this battle, and his injuries did not heal quickly as they had in times past. Shatterstar was sidelined from X-Force's next few missions while the Beast (Dr. Hank McCoy) studied him, discovering several fascinating facts, such as his DNA matching Longshot's.

Art by Joe Jusko

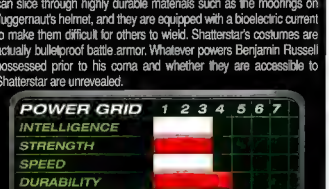
While Siryn was imprisoned in the Weisman Institute for the Criminally Insane, she saw a file on a patient named Benjamin Russell, who greatly resembled Shatterstar. Meanwhile, the Hellfire Club's Sebastian Shaw and Tessa mind-controlled X-Force into battling Cable and Domino. Shatterstar began struggling when his warrior instinct seemed to be progressively lessening. When the police confronted Shatterstar with records of Benjamin Russell's criminal career, he began to doubt himself even more. After X-Force infiltrated the SHIELD Helicarrier to rescue Cyclops (Scott Summers), Shatterstar accompanied Siryn to the Weisman Institute to rescue Deadpool, but was mentally manipulated by Gamesmaster and began having memories of being Benjamin Russell. After X-Force narrowly survived a psychic assault by Mr. Sinister (Nathaniel Essex), Rictor returned to the team to aid Shatterstar in his identity crisis and X-Force stormed the Weisman Institute. Sending his monstrous soldiers Gog and Magog to subdue X-Force, Mojo kidnapped and tortured Shatterstar and Cable. In a broadcast mimicking the future moment when Shatterstar was destined to slay Mojo, Mojo mortally wounded Shatterstar instead, then turned his attentions to invading Earth. Mojo's assistant, the six-armed sorceress Spiral (Rita Wayward), took the nearly dead Shatterstar back to the Weisman Institute and combined his essence with that of Benjamin Russell, a Chicago-born mutant who had been comatose since his powers manifested. Spiral claimed close ties to both Russell and Shatterstar, though those ties have not been revealed. Mojo's invasion plans were stopped and he was defeated. Now with clear memories of Russell's life, Shatterstar felt whole again, and his warrior instinct returned; he even began using Russell's name at times. Shatterstar participated in more X-Force missions: fighting Shinobi Shaw's soldiers Clearcut and Mindmeld; retrieving Dr. Doom (Victor von Doom)'s equipment alongside Nathaniel Richards; battling Nazi Baron Strucker during World War II; and fighting the anti-mutant government Sentinels of Operation: Zero Tolerance. Shatterstar chose to leave the team with Rictor and went to Rictor's family home in Mexico, where he helped his friend clean up his family's criminal dealings. Mojo hired Arcade to test Shatterstar's prowess, and Arcade kidnapped Rictor to force Shatterstar into battling Domino, a fight Shatterstar lost. Shatterstar and Rictor also aided the mutant Hanrasha against Martin Henry Strong.

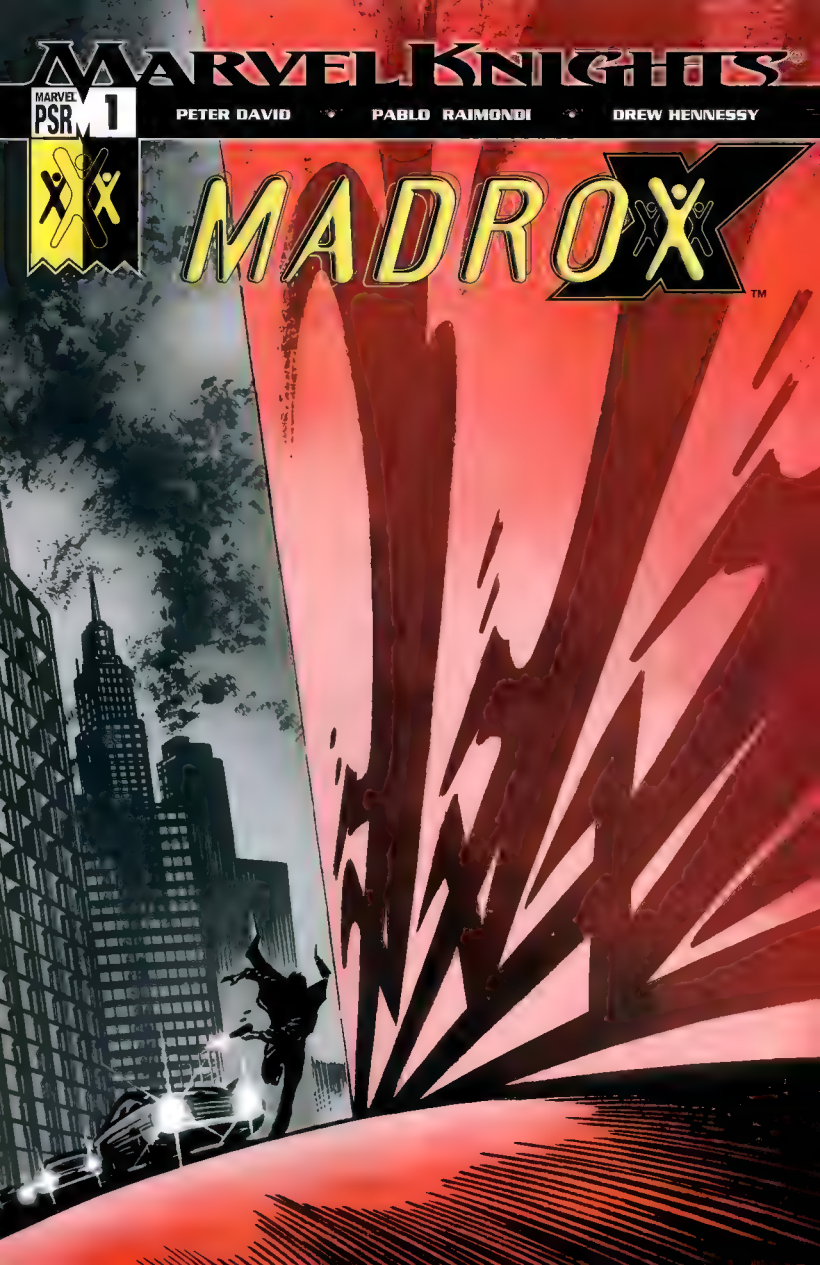
Separating from Rictor, an aimless Shatterstar ended up in Madripoor, engaging in arena-style fights for sport until he became involved in a battle of wits between Spiral and Dominicus Pierce; Spiral and Pierce both sought the Five Fingers of Annihilation, an ancient blade capable of slaying the Skornn, an entity that could feed on the mutant gene. When Spiral obtained the blade, she took Shatterstar to the alternate reality Earth-2055, where she ruled the planet and was known as Apocalypse, though Shatterstar, with alternate versions of his X-Force teammates, defeated her. After returning to Earth-616, Shatterstar sought solace at a monastery in Tibet charged with protecting the Five Fingers. He briefly trained with the monk Zed, who was killed by a group called the Helix seeking the blade. Shatterstar joined with Cable and X-Force in defeating the Skornn, though Cable seemingly died. Shatterstar next teamed with Domino and Caliban to free the 198, a group of mutants who had retained their powers after "M-Day" and were living in a tent city on the grounds of the Xavier Institute under supervision by government Sentinels. Shatterstar next surfaced in New England, apparently under the control of the mysterious "Cortex," where he attacked Rictor and Strong Guy (Guido Carosella), along with the Jamie Madrox duplicate John Maddox. When Cortex was otherwise distracted, Shatterstar's mind returned and seeing Rictor, gave him a passionate kiss, revealing their long-hidden relationship.

Art by Frank Cirocco

HEIGHT: 6'3" **EYES:** Blue (sometimes clear)
WEIGHT: 95 lbs. **HAIR:** Red-Blond

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Shatterstar is genetically bred to be the perfect fighting machine. His DNA initially matched Longshot's, including porous bones and lack of white blood cells, but there were physical differences, such as Shatterstar having five digits per hand. Shatterstar has an enhanced biorestorative metabolism and heals from injuries at a superhuman rate. He has enhanced speed, strength, stamina and senses. He can resonate a vibratory shockwave through the metallurgic properties of his swords, even from a distance, though this power physically weakens him. Shatterstar's vast technological knowledge enables him to repair even alien technology. Shatterstar has been trained in several combat techniques and in military strategy, though his weapons of choice are the swords he brought with him from his homeworld. Forged from science and magic, his swords can slice through highly durable materials such as the moorings on Juggernaut's helmet, and they are equipped with a bioelectric current to make them difficult for others to wield. Shatterstar's costumes are actually bulletproof battle armor. Whatever powers Benjamin Russell possessed prior to his coma and whether they are accessible to Shatterstar are unrevealed.




MARVEL KNIGHTS
MARVEL PSR 1
PETER DAVID
PABLO RAIMONDI
DREW HENNESSY
MADROX
™

THERE'S TH S SONG..."ANOTHER HUNDRED PEOPLE." ABOUT PEOPLE POURING INTO NEW YORK CITY BY THE HUNDREDS, INTO AN EVER-INCREASING, FACELESS MASS.
IT'S FROM A SHOW CALLED "COMPANY."
I'M JAMIE MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN, AND BELIEVE ME, IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW ABOUT ..
IT'S COMPANY

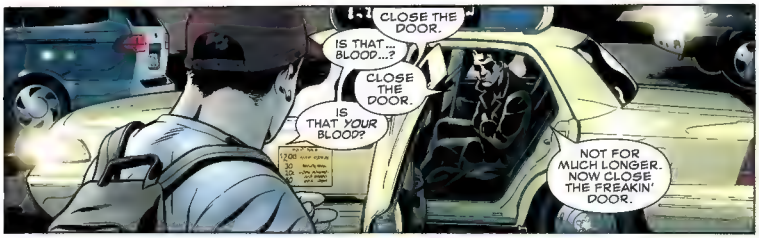
:PHWEEEET:
TAXI!!!

COULD YOU TAKE ME TO LINCOLN CENT--
NYC TAXI
6H58

HEY!!!
I SAW THAT CAB FIRST! YOU--

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME! RIGHT THIS INST--

MY...
MY GOD...IS THAT...

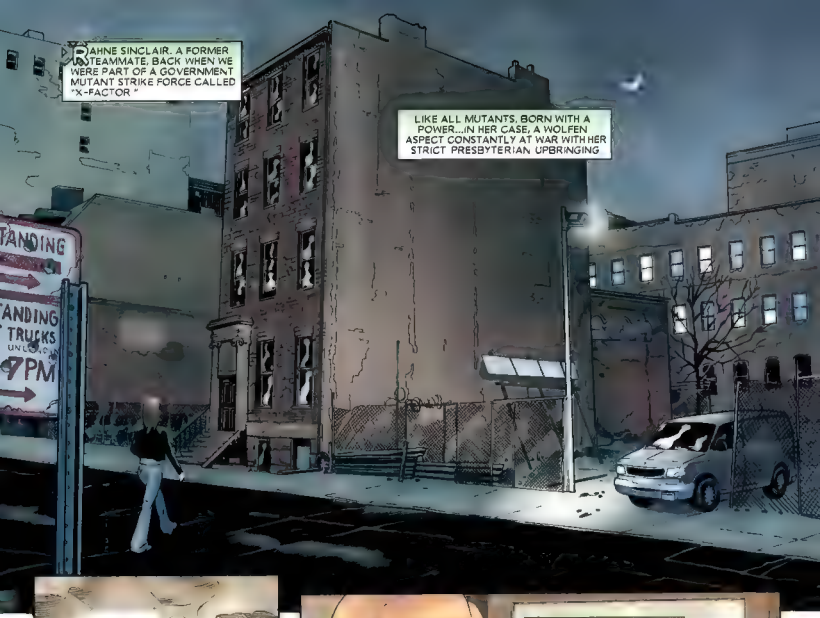

CLOSE THE DOOR.
IS THAT...BLOOD...?
CLOSE THE DOOR.
IS THAT *YOUR* BLOOD?
NOT FOR MUCH LONGER. NOW CLOSE THE FREAKIN' DOOR.

MUTANT TOWN.
WHAT?
MUTANT TOWN.
DID YOU SAY...?

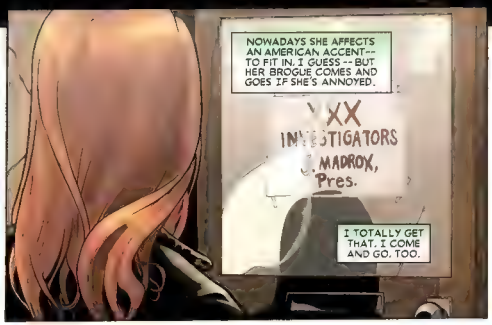
IF I HAVE TO SAY EVERYTHING THREE TIMES...
CRIPES! THAT'S BLOOD! YOU'RE *BLEEDING!*
YEAH.
ALL OVER MY CAB! YOU GOT *ANY* IDEA OF THE PAPERWORK--

YOU MEAN IF I DIE.
RIGHT!
DIE IN YOUR CAB, I MEAN.
EXACTLY! LOOK, LEMME AT LEAST TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL...
TOO LATE FOR THAT...SO HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE ME TO MUTANT TOWN...AND THEN YOU JUST HAVE A FARE...'STEAD OF A MURDER SCENE ON WHEELS.
YOU COULD DIE EN ROUTE.
SO COULD YOU.
IF YOU GET MY MEANING.
LOUD AND CLEAR.
NEW YORK, THE GREAT MELTING POT. WHAT A CROCK.
CROCKPOT. GET IT?
NEVER MIND. THE POINT IS ..

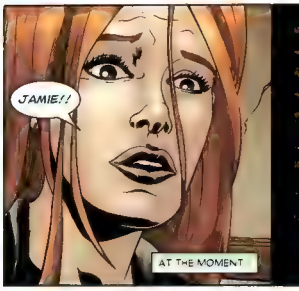
IN NEW YORK, THERE'S NO REAL "MELTING." ASSORTED GROUPS CLUSTER IN DIFFERENT AREAS FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTION. YOU'VE GOT CHINATOWN...LITTLE ITALY... CHRISTOPHER STREET.
...AND THEN THERE'S "MUTANT TOWN." DIFFERENCE IS, WE DON'T GET TOURISTS...UNLESS, Y'KNOW, THEY'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. OR ARE JUST DUMB OR BOTH.
AW, C'MON, BABY. SLOW DOWN. GIVE US A KISS.
YOU'RE NOT MAD, ARE YA? WHAT, YOU NEVER HEARD A WOLF WHISTLE?
AYE. I HAVE.
HAVE YE?
C'MON, BABY. GIVE US A KISS.
-SIGH- AMERICANS.


RAHNE SINCLAIR. A FORMER TEAMMATE. BACK WHEN WE WERE PART OF A GOVERNMENT MUTANT STRIKE FORCE CALLED "X-FACTOR."
LIKE ALL MUTANTS, BORN WITH A POWER...IN HER CASE, A WOLFEN ASPECT CONSTANTLY AT WAR WITH HER STRICT PRESBYTERIAN UPBRINGING
7PM

JAMIE?
JAMIE, Y' UP THERE?

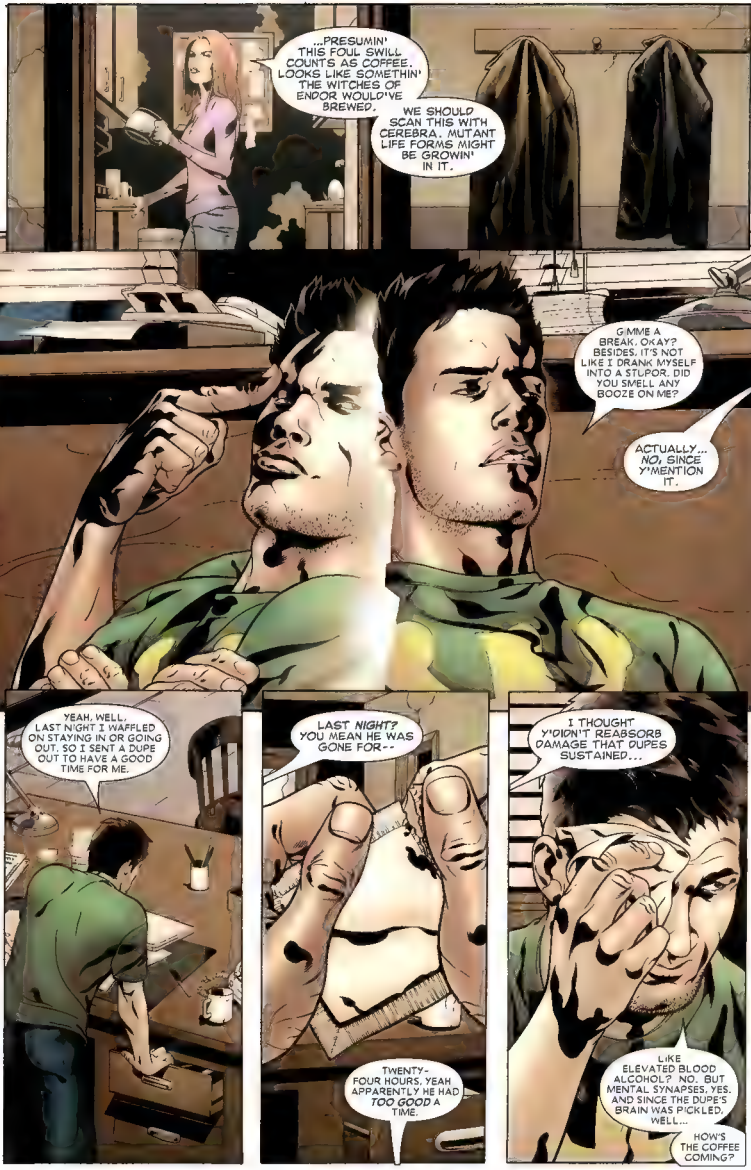

NOWADAYS SHE AFFECTS AN AMERICAN ACCENT--TO FIT IN, I GUESS -- BUT HER BROGUE COMES AND GOES IF SHE'S ANNOYED.
XX
INVESTIGATORS
MADROX,
Pres.
I TOTALLY GET THAT. I COME AND GO. TOO.

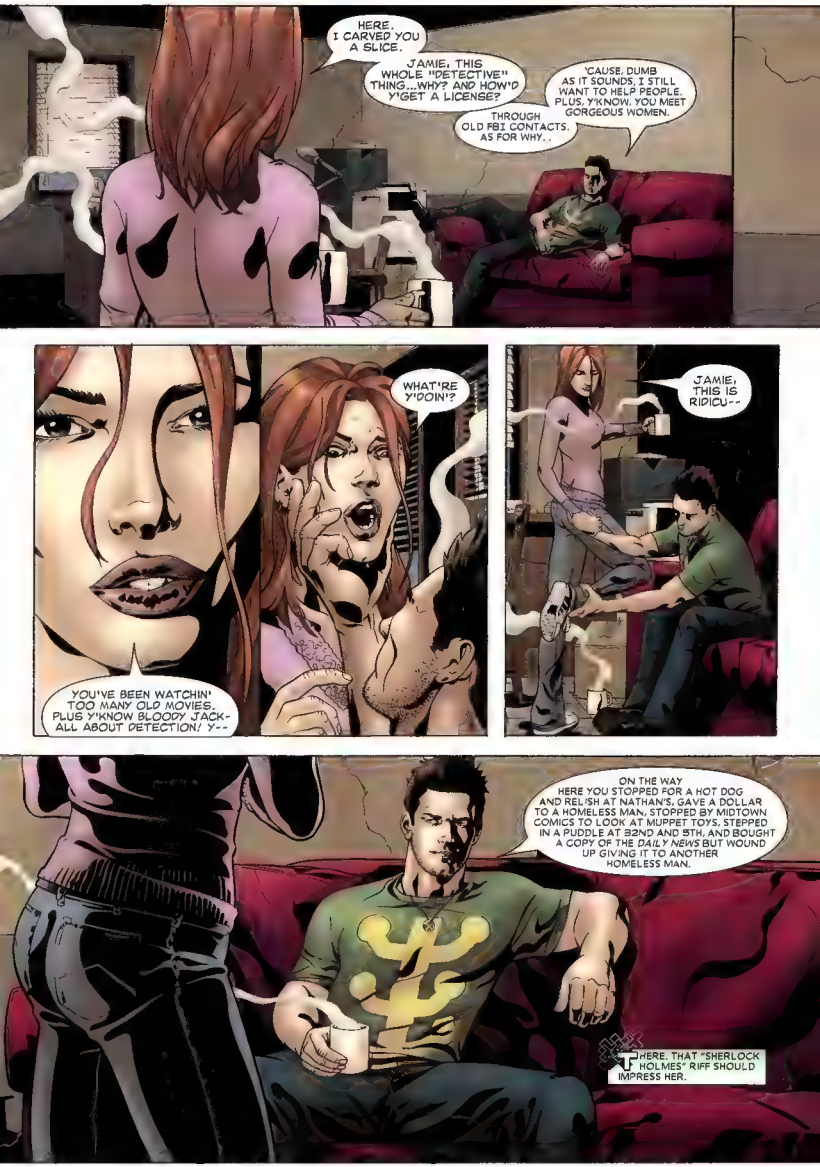
YOU MIGHT WANT T'SPLURGE ON A PROFESSIONAL T'STENCIL THAT ON--


JAMIE!!
AT THE MOMENT

I'M PRETTY MUCH GONE
JAMIE!!!
SOUL OF A GUMSHOE

JAMIE! JAMIE. WHO DID THIS? AH SWEAR T' GOD, HE'LL PAY FOR...
OH...HEY... RAHNE. Y'CAME. S'GREAT.
KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE... TEACHING UP AT THE SCHOOL...
JAMIE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OHHHHH, FINE. FEELING NOOOO PAIN.
YOU'RE... DRUNK?
KINDA. YEAH.
ACH!
OOOOOF!!!
YEAH. THAT'S MY MUTANT THING. ANY STRONG IMPACT CREATES DUPLICATES OF ME.
I AM A PARADE. I'M MY OWN BEST FRIEND...
...AND THE ONLY DRUNK WHO CAN LEGITIMATELY SEE DOUBLE
SOME COFFEE. I'LL BE MAKING YOU...


...PRESUMIN' THIS FOUL SWILL COUNTS AS COFFEE. LOOKS LIKE SOMETHIN' THE WITCHES OF ENDOR WOULD'VE BREWED.
WE SHOULD SCAN THIS WITH CEREBRA. MUTANT LIFE FORMS MIGHT BE GROWIN' IN IT.
GIMME A BREAK, OKAY? BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I DRANK MYSELF INTO A STUPOR. DID YOU SMELL ANY BOOZE ON ME?
ACTUALLY... NO, SINCE Y'MENTION IT.
YEAH, WELL. LAST NIGHT I WAFFLED ON STAYING IN OR GOING OUT. SO I SENT A DUPE OUT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME FOR ME.
LAST NIGHT? YOU MEAN HE WAS GONE FOR--
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. YEAH APPARENTLY HE HAD TOO GOOD A TIME.
I THOUGHT Y'DIDN'T REABSORB DAMAGE THAT DUPES SUSTAINED...
LIKE ELEVATED BLOOD ALCOHOL? NO. BUT MENTAL SYNAPSES. YES. AND SINCE THE DUPE'S BRAIN WAS PICKLED, WELL...
HOW'S THE COFFEE COMING?


HERE. I CARVED YOU A SLICE.
JAMIE, THIS WHOLE "DETECTIVE" THING...WHY? AND HOW'D Y'GET A LICENSE?
'CAUSE, DUMB AS IT SOUNDS, I STILL WANT TO HELP PEOPLE. PLUS, Y'KNOW. YOU MEET GORGEOUS WOMEN.
THROUGH OLD FBI CONTACTS. AS FOR WHY..
WHAT'RE Y'DOIN'?
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHIN' TOO MANY OLD MOVIES. PLUS Y'KNOW BLOODY JACK-ALL ABOUT DETECTION! Y--
JAMIE, THIS IS RIDICU--
ON THE WAY HERE YOU STOPPED FOR A HOT DOG AND RELISH AT NATHAN'S, GAVE A DOLLAR TO A HOMELESS MAN, STOPPED BY MIDTOWN COMICS TO LOOK AT MUPPET TOYS, STEPPED IN A PUDDLE AT 32ND AND 8TH, AND BOUGHT A COPY OF THE *DAILY NEWS* BUT WOUND UP GIVING IT TO ANOTHER HOMELESS MAN.
HERE. THAT "SHERLOCK HOLMES" RIFF SHOULD IMPRESS HER.

H-HOW DID YOU...?
TRADE SECRET
UP. WORKED LIKE A CHARM
I'M BACK.
WHAT IN TH--?

IS THIS A BAD TIME?
HUNH. "KWAI CHANG" DUPE MAKES HIS TRUMPHANT RETURN...A WEEK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

AH. RAHNE. IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS.
IT...IT HAS?
YOU HAVE GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG WOMAN. ARE YOU ASSISTING IN THIS OFFICE?
I, UH...JUST, UH, PART-TIME, JUST TO HELP, Y'KNOW. SET UP...
RAHNE.. THERE'S A BAR DOWNSTAIRS ACROSS THE STREET, CALLED THE POWER PLANT.
GUIDO SHOULD BE IN ABOUT THIS TIME. HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU.
BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT--?

I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN AFTER I'VE REABSORBED THIS DUPE.
JAMIE, THIS IS KINDA WEIRD! DON'T Y'SEE THAT?
PEACE BE WITH YOU.

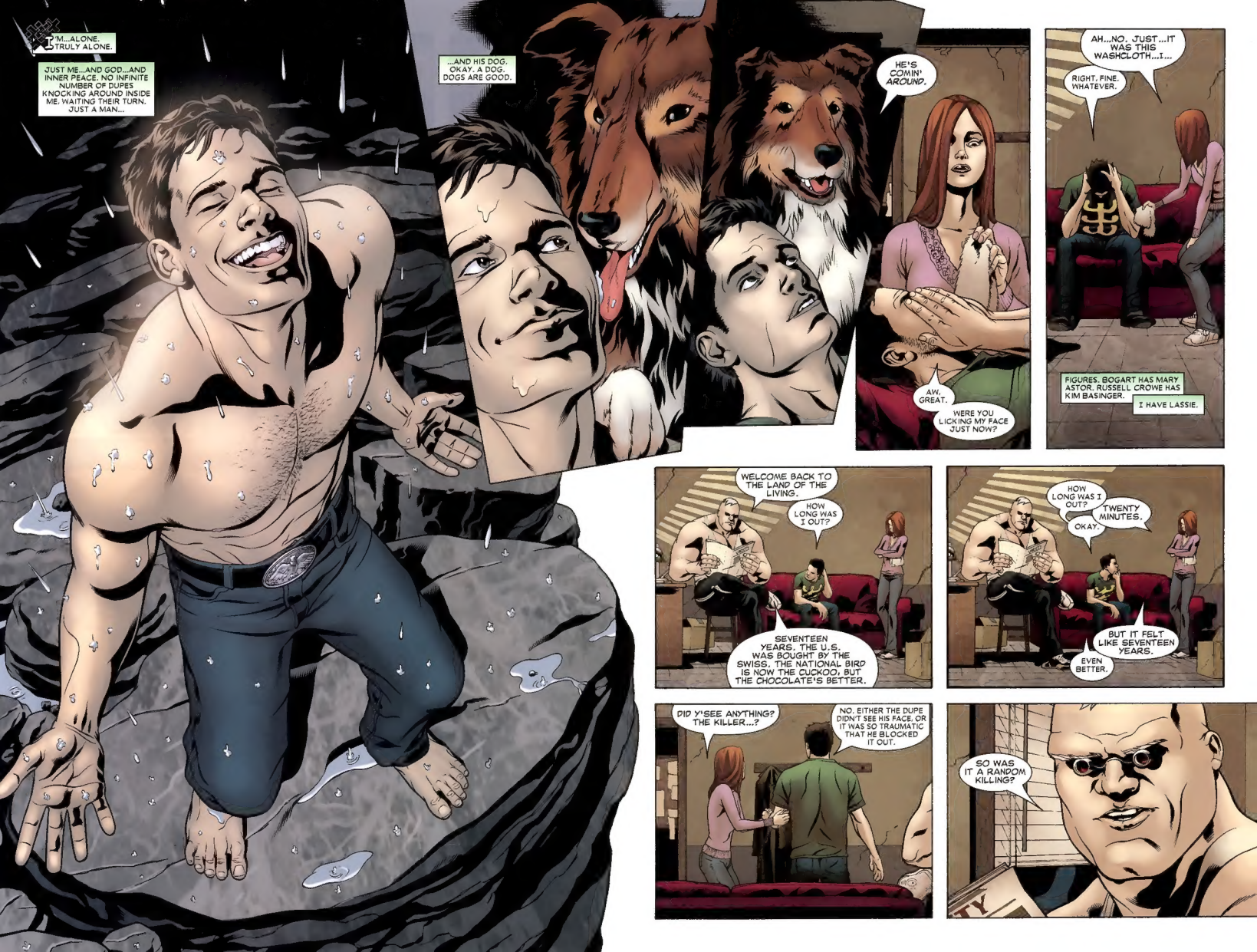
HUNH. LEMME THINK...
NOPE. NO. NOT SEEING THAT.
BUT...
NOT AT ALL.
WE'RE CALLED "PRIVATE EYES" FOR A REASON. IT'S BECAUSE WE ALWAYS KEEP ASPECTS OF OURSELVES PRIVATE. LOCKED AWAY SO THAT NO ONE...EVEN OUR MOST TRUSTED FRIENDS . CAN EVER FULLY KNOW US.
I GUESS.
EITHER THAT.

...OR NO ONE WANTS TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITH US. YEAH, THAT'S PROBLY IT.
QP
YO! JAILBAIT!
ME?
YEAH, YOU. LIKE THE LIQUOR AUTHORITY DON'T HASSLE ME ENOUGH FOR BEING A MUTANT BAR.
NOW I GOTTA WORRY ABOUT UNDERAGE BOOZE HOUNDS?
EASE UP, LEFTY. I'LL VOUCH FOR HER.
WHA--?
EVERY DECENT GUMSHOE HAS SAVVY MUSCLE BACKING HIM UP. SPENSER HAS HAWK. ME, I GOT A SUPER-POWERED FORMER BODYGUARD TURNED FED TURNED BACK TO BODYGUARD AND NOW, MOSTLY, MUSCLE FOR HIRE...
NAME'S GUIDO CAROSELLA. A.K.A
STRONG GUY!
MAN, MAKE ONE JOKE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AND YOU'RE STUCK WITH A NAME FOR LIFE.
LEFTY! SCOTCH AND SODA TO MY REGULAR TABLE. SAME FOR THE YOUNG LADY, 'CEPT HOLD THE SCOTCH.
SO...HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH LILA? HEARD YOU AND SHE WERE AN ITEM--
EH. I DON'T LIKE T'TALK ABOUT IT.
REALLY? BECAUSE THE WORD WAS THE TWO O' YOU WERE--
I DON'T. LIKE. T'TALK ABOUT IT. OKAY?
O... OKAY. CAN WE TALK ABOUT JAMIE?
OH YEAH. SURE. HIM I'LL TALK ABOUT. I AM HIS BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD, Y'KNOW. WELL...'SIDES HIMSELF.
SEE, THAT'S MY POINT. FIRST HE QUIT HIS JOB AT X-CORP IN PARIS.
I MEAN... PARIS! WHO'D WANT T' LEAVE PARIS?
NOWADAYS? WHO WOULDN'T?

AND NOW HE'S SO...I DUNNO. DISTRACTED. DISTANT.
KID, YA GOTTA KEEP SOMETHING IN MIND.
JAMIE'S RAISED "KEEPING TO HIMSELF" TO AN ART FORM. HIS PARENTS KEPT HIM ISOLATED ON A SMALL FARM; WEARING A SPECIAL CONTROL SUIT SO HE WOULDN'T KEEP CHURNIN' OUT DUPLICATES EVERY TIME HE HIT SOMETHING, OR SOMETHING HIT HIM.
THEN THEY DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, AND THE KID WAS STUCK ON HIS OWN FOR MONTHS 'FORE ANYBODY FOUND OUT. THAT'S GOTTA SCREW YOU UP A LITTLE.
PLUS, Y'KNOW ABOUT THE DUPES HE'S BEEN SENDIN' ROUND, RIGHT?
"SENDIN' ROUND?"
YEAH. SEE, THE DETECTIVE THING'S A RECENT DEVELOPMENT. BEFORE THAT, JAMIE COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT DIRECTION TO GO IN HIS LIFE. SO HE WENT IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE.
HE'S BEEN SENDING DUPES THE PAST FEW YEARS TO LEARN ABOUT VARIOUS STUFF. THEN THEY COME BACK AND HE REABSORBS THEM... AND GAINS THEIR KNOWLEDGE.
THING IS, HE FLAKES OUT ANY-WHERE FROM A MINUTE TO AN HOUR WHILE HIS BRAIN Y'KNOW, PROCESSES IT.
I SAW IT ONCE. IT'S TERRIFYING BUT FASCINATING...
THE PROBLEM WITH LIVING MANY LIVES IS THAT ONE LIFE CAN THROW YOU ALL KINDS OF CURVES.
MADROX?
SO THE FORMULA FOR A MULTIPLE MAN IS EMC². EXISTENCE EQUALS MYR AD CATASTROPHES, SQUARED
COULDN'T MAKE IT... UPSTAIRS...TO OFFICE...
JAMIE? WHAT'S WR--?
BLOOD. I SMELL BLOOD ON HIM.
A LOT! HIS OWN BLOOD.
GUIDO!!
LORD; GUIDO! THERE'S...THERE'S BLOOD EVERYWHERE! AH...AH THINK HE'S BEEN STABBED!

R-RAHNE...? WHAT'RE... YOU DOIN'... HERE...?
OH, OF COURSE! GUIDO, HE'S--
YOU...YOU TOLD ME TO WAIT HERE FOR--
A DUDE. I'M ON IT.
GO GET--!
ON IT, I SAID.
COVER YOUR EARS.
WHAT? WHY...?
MAAAADROOOOOX!!
GUIDO SOUNDS FREAKED I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY FREAK GUIDO
C'MON!!!
THEN I SEE IT FOR MYSELF..
...AND I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT MORE THAN EVER
JAMIE, HURRY! REABSORB HIM!
I...I CAN'T! I CAN'T!
I...DON'T UNDERSTAND...
MADROX, HE'S UNCONSCIOUS. IT'S THE ONLY WAY--
I DON'T CARE.
BUT IF HE DIES WITHOUT YOU TAKING HIS MEMORIES...
STILL NOT CARING!!!!

HOW DO I EXPLAIN THAT IT'S JUST HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE! A DUPE, RIGHT ON THE EDGE...AND I TAKE HIM.
IT'S LIKE DYING MYSELF. LIKE...LIKE MY SOUL'S BEING TORN IN HALF
I DON'T ABSORB THE WOUND... BUT THE TRAUMA OF WHAT HE FEELS. FELT. IT'S...
I JUST CAN'T
HE'S BEEN STABBED, JAMIE! A KILLER'S OUT THERE! IF Y'DON'T STOP HIM...!
IF I DO STOP HIM, SO WHAT?!
ANOTHER'LL TAKE HIS PLACE! THERE'S ALWAYS MORE KILLERS, RAHNE. THAT'S WHAT HUMANS DO! PRODUCE KILLERS IN ENDLESS SUPPLY
FINE. Y'CAN EXPLAIN THAT TO THE FAMILIES OF HIS FUTURE VICTIMS.
I HATE THAT SHE'S RIGHT AND I HATE THAT THERE'S ANOTHER LIKELIHOOD SHE HASN'T EVEN CONSIDERED.
THAT THIS WASN'T A RANDOM ASSAULT
GOOD MAN, JAMIE.
THAT SOMEONE'S TARGETED ME. AND THEY HIT A DUPE NOW. BUT NEXT TIME...THEY MIGHT GET ME
"GOOD MAN." ANOTHER CROCK. I'M JUST A SCARED MAN, HOPING TO HEAD OFF A...
AARRH!!
JAMIE?!? JAMIE!!!


I'M...ALONE. TRULY ALONE.
JUST ME...AND GOD...AND INNER PEACE. NO INFINITE NUMBER OF DUPES KNOCKING AROUND INSIDE ME, WAITING THEIR TURN. JUST A MAN...
...AND HIS DOG. OKAY. A DOG. DOGS ARE GOOD.
HE'S COMIN' AROUND.
AW, GREAT.
WERE YOU LICKING MY FACE JUST NOW?
AH...NO. JUST...IT WAS THIS WASHCLOTH...I...
RIGHT, FINE, WHATEVER.
FIGURES. BOGART HAS MARY ASTOR. RUSSELL CROWE HAS KIM BASINGER.
I HAVE LASSIE.
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
SEVENTEEN YEARS. THE U.S. WAS BOUGHT BY THE SWISS. THE NATIONAL BIRD IS NOW THE CUCKOO, BUT THE CHOCOLATE'S BETTER.
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
TWENTY MINUTES.
OKAY.
BUT IT FELT LIKE SEVENTEEN YEARS.
EVEN BETTER.
DID Y'SEE ANYTHING? THE KILLER...?
NO. EITHER THE DUPE DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE, OR IT WAS SO TRAUMATIC THAT HE BLOCKED IT OUT.
SO WAS IT A RANDOM KILLING?

I'M THINKING NOT. MY GUESS IS THAT SOMEONE TARGETED ME. THE DUPE'S THOUGHTS WERE SCREWED-UP...
...BUT THEY WERE ALSO FOCUSED... ON CHICAGO, I THINK. I SAW THE SEARS TOWER, ...AND THE EL. AND SOME WOMAN.
OF COURSE. THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN.
HMPH. GOT YOUR WISH, JAMIE. I HOPE SHE'S GORGEOUS ENOUGH T'DIE FOR.
ME, TOO.
WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?
THERE'S NO "OUR." I'M DOING THIS ON MY OWN. I TAKE BEING MURDERED PRETTY PERSONALLY.
YOU GUYS STAY HERE. I EXPECT THE ATTACKER'LL BE LOOKING TO MAKE SURE HE FINISHED THE JOB...OR EVEN KILL EVERY JAMIE MADROX THERE IS.
SO I'M BAIT. OH JOY.
RAHNE, YOU NEVER SAID-- WHATTAYA THINK OF THE COMPANY NAME?
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU INVESTIGATE PORNOGRAPHY.
XXX INVESTIGATORS J. MADROX, Pres.
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

NEXT ISSUE

Special thanks to ScanDog for the variant cover!